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The FIGHTING MEN OF LOUISIANA

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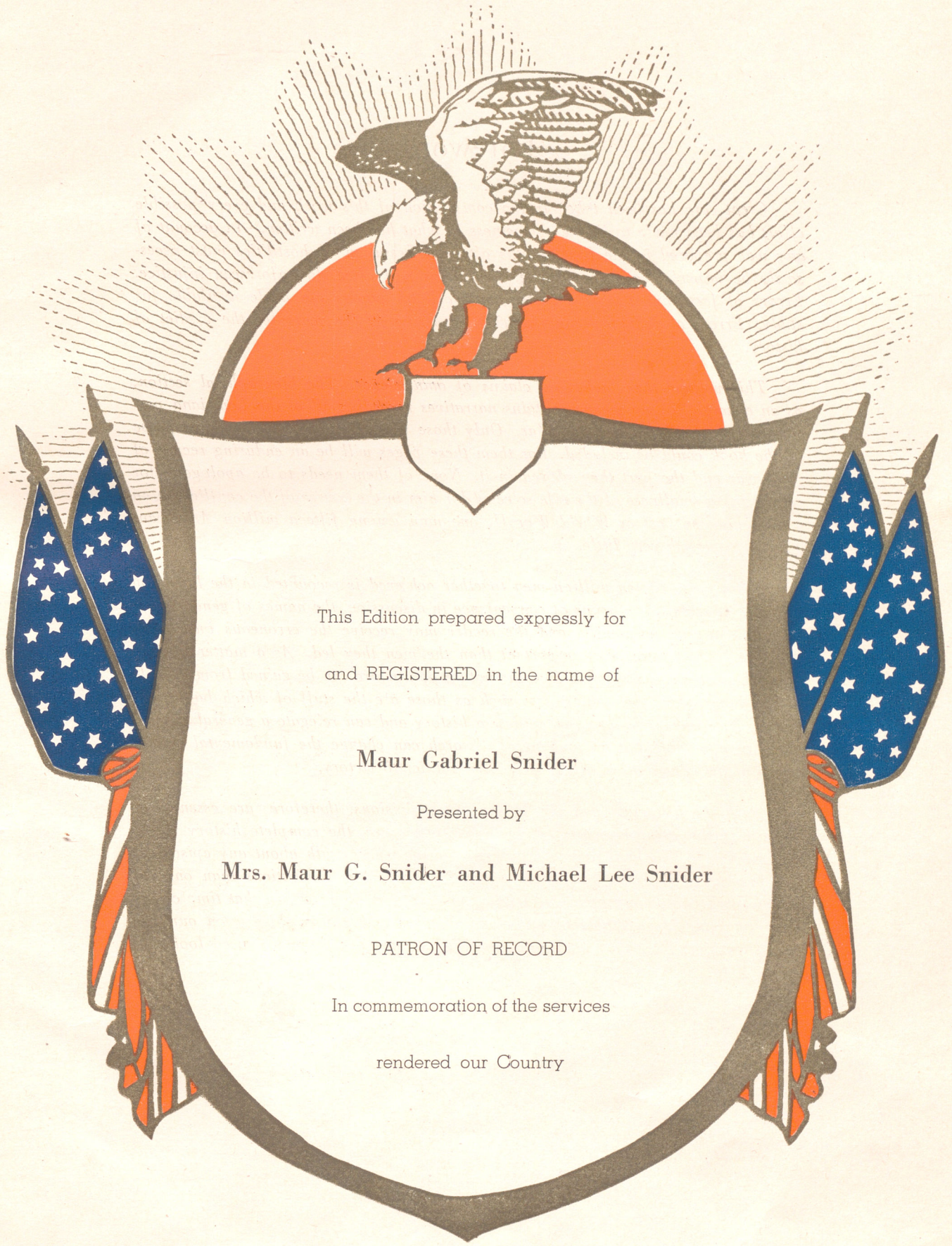
The Fighting men of
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In commemoration of the services

rendered our Country

Foreword

Great care has been taken in the compilation of this work and every possible effort has been made to insure correctness in what has been written. An account of any war prepared in the first months after the cessation of hostilities must necessarily be imperfect and incomplete. Omissions will often do unforeseen injustice. Errors of fact cannot be eliminated until official papers are made available for study. Errors of judgment must await the passing of the years for the verdict of history.

This volume then makes no claims of omniscience. The biographical section, as an example, by no means contains narratives regarding all of the Louisiana participants in the Second World War. Only those who chose to share in the expense of the book could be included. For them these pages will be an enduring record of their war and the part they played in it. None of them needs to be apologetic for any seeming smallness of the role selected for him in the course of the conflict. In an undertaking so vast as World War II, one man among fifteen million Americans could accomplish very little.

What those fifteen million men together achieved is recounted in the historical section. Therein, for reasons of convenience in discussion, the names of generals and admirals appear frequently, and the reader may receive the erroneous impression that the leaders were more important than the men they led. As a matter of fact, a more complete understanding of the nature of warfare can be gained from a study of the biographies, for young men such as those are the stuff of which battles are made. New interpretations can outdate a history and can relegate a general to comparative obscurity, but no amount of research can change the fundamental significance of the contribution of the individual soldier to victory.

Both the historical and the biographical divisions, therefore, are essential to even a partial comprehension of the war. In a sense, the complete history of the Second World War will never be written, for the whole truth about any episode of the past never finds its way to the printed page. Other generations than ours, of course, will know more of the real story than we now know. When that time comes, they may find it profitable to study our mistakes and philosophize upon our misapprehensions. Here then is the way the war and the peace that followed looked to us in 1946.

J. K. ORBISON,
J. P. ORBISON,

Editors and Publishers.

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The Fighting Men of Louisiana

and

A History of World War II

By Dr. Granville D. Davis

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JUN 30 1998
Dallas, Texas

Prepared under the supervision of
THE LOUISIANA HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

Photographs and Biographies are arranged by parishes with the exception of those that came in late. They will be found in the back, preceding the history. The encyclopedia history is by Dr. Granville D. Davis.

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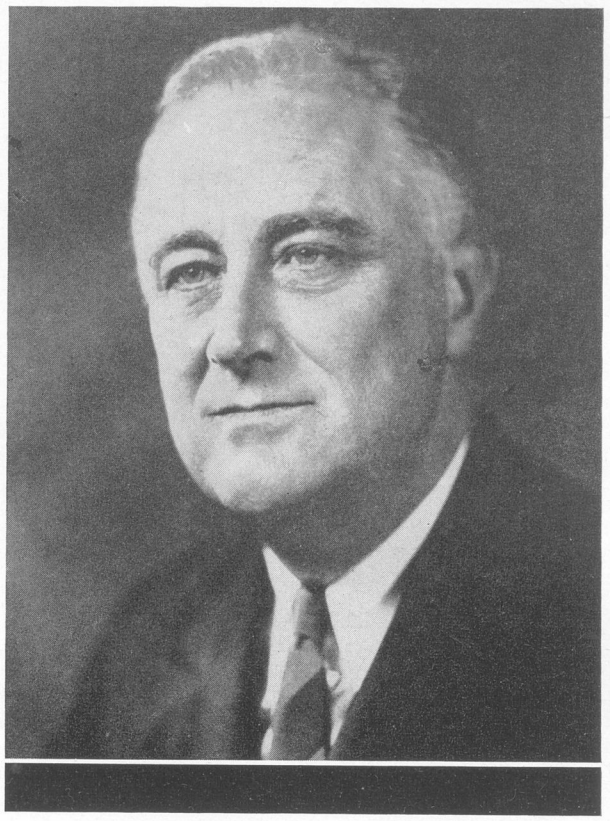
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Flag Raising on Iwo Jima

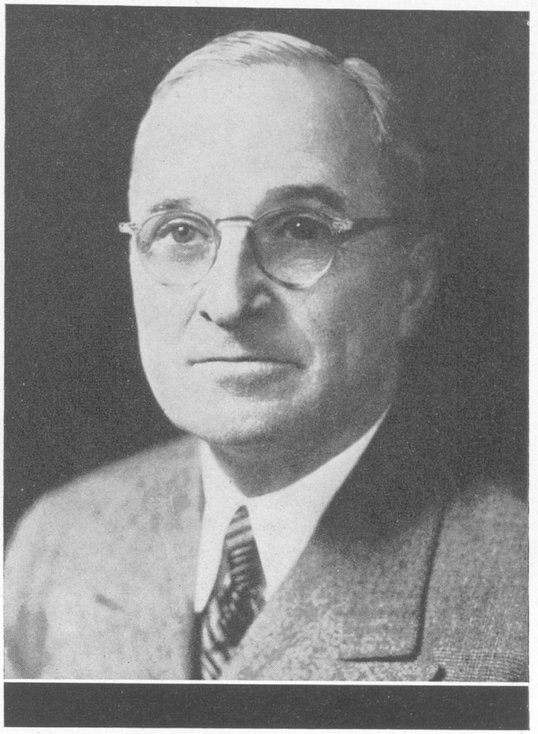
That the Government of the people, by the people, for the people,
shall not perish from the earth.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt



Thirty-first President of the United States, was born at Hyde Park, N. Y., January 30, 1882. Perhaps no President in the history of this country was more completely idolized by his followers and more thoroughly disliked by his enemies than was this maker and breaker of precedents. Mr. Roosevelt was the only person ever to be elected President of the United States for more than two terms; he was elected four times—in 1932, 1936, 1940, and in 1944—and served a total of 12 years, 1 month and 8 days. Graduating from Harvard University in 1904, he studied law at Columbia University and was admitted to the New York bar in 1907. His political career began in 1910 when he was elected to the State Senate where he became the leader of an insurgent group that defied Tammany Hall. Shortly after Woodrow Wilson's election he was appointed Assistant Secretary of the Navy in which position he served until 1920. In 1920 he ran for the vice presidency on the ticket headed by James M. Cox of Ohio. Stricken with infantile paralysis in 1921 he was out of active politics until he nominated Alfred E. Smith for the presidency in 1924. Mr. Roosevelt was elected governor of New York in 1924 and served for four years. Nominated for the presidency in 1932 on the fourth ballot, receiving 945 votes out of a total of 1,154, he campaigned on a New Deal platform and was elected by a plurality of 7,060,016 popular votes, carrying 42 of the 48 states. President Roosevelt died in office on April 12, 1945, of a "massive cerebral hemorrhage."

Harry Truman



Born May 8, 1884, near Lamar, Mo., became the thirty-second President of the United States, succeeding the late Franklin D. Roosevelt. President Truman grew up on a farm near Lamar, Mo. He served overseas with the Field Artillery in World War I, and took part in the St. Mihiel and Argonne offensives. Entering Jackson County (Mo.) politics in the early '20's, he was elected Jackson County judge, an administrative nonjudicial position. He lost his judgeship in 1924; regained it in 1926, and served until 1935, when he entered the U. S. Senate. In 1940 he became the Chairman of the Special Committee to investigate the National Defense program, better known as the Truman Committee. As committee chairman he traveled as much as 30,000 miles a year visiting war plants, and, consequently, became one of the best informed persons on the war production program of the United States. Mr. Truman was nominated for the vice presidency at the Democratic National Convention in July, 1944, and was elected the following November.

George Catlett Marshall

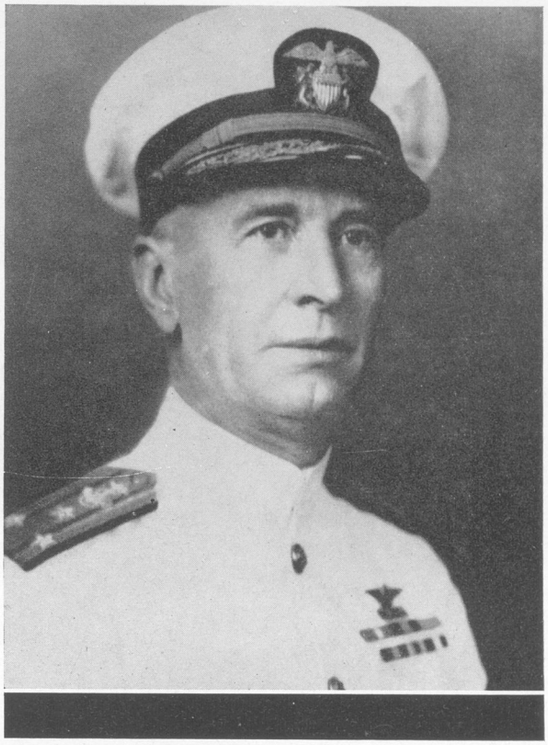
General of the Army



Was born in Uniontown, Pa., December 31, 1880. Unable to obtain an appointment to West Point, he attended Virginia Military Institute and entered the Army upon his graduation. Thereafter he graduated from the Infantry Cavalry School and the Army Staff College at Leavenworth, Kansas. In World War I he saw action with the First Division in France, later serving as chief of operations with the First Army. From 1924 until 1927 he served in China. From 1927 until 1932 he was assistant commandant of the Infantry School. In July, 1938, he joined the General Staff as Chief of the War Plans Division; was deputy chief of staff, 1938-39; acting chief of staff, July-September, 1939. In December, 1944, he was named General of the Army. General Marshall directed the Army's development from a force of less than 200,000 men in 1939 to a vast global organization with an operating strength of about 8,300,000 men. On November 26, 1945, he relinquished his office, with a salute from the President as "The man to whom the nation owes its World War II victory and its future."

Ernest Joseph King

Commander-in-Chief of U. S. Fleet During World War II



Was born in Lorain, Ohio, on November 23, 1878. Graduating fourth in the class of 1901 from the U. S. Naval Academy, he served in World War I as a member of the staff of the Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. Atlantic Fleet, eventually becoming the fleet's assistant chief of staff. From September, 1923, to July, 1926, he commanded the Submarine Base at New London, Conn., and while on this duty was in charge of raising the U. S. S. S-51. He handled this with such success that he was detailed in December, 1927, to command the force which raised the U. S. S. S-4. For these two achievements he received the Distinguished Service Medal with one gold star. In June, 1927, Admiral King qualified as a naval aviator. From August, 1928, until August, 1929, he was assistant chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics. There followed tours of duty as commander of the Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Va.; commanding officer of the U. S. S. Lexington, and chief of the Bureau of Aeronautics. From 1938 to 1939 as vice admiral, he commanded the Aircraft Battle Force, U. S. Fleet, a member of the general board of the Navy Department, 1939-1940, and commander-in-chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet, February-December, 1941. His Navy rank, Admiral of the Fleet, was authorized in December, 1944.



1

General Dwight D. Eisenhower



2

General Douglas MacArthur



1

Admiral Harold R. Stark



2

Admiral Chester W. Nimitz



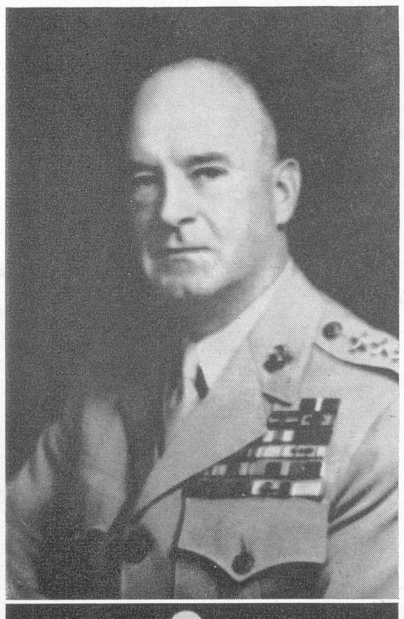
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General Henry H. Arnold



2

General Carl T. Spaatz



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General Alexander A. Vandergrift



2

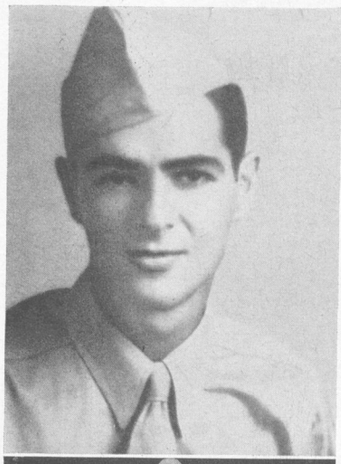
Admiral Russel R. Warsche

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Milton Major Rougon

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Vilas Rougon, Chenal, was born January 31, 1922, and was educated at Poydras High School, New Roads; Louisiana State University, and Loyola University of the South. He entered service September 5, 1942, at New Orleans and received his basic training at Camp Maxey, Texas. He was assigned to the Texas College of Arts and Industries, Kingsville, ASTP; Camp Howze, as a medical aidman, and Fort Lewis, Wash., as clerk and dispensary chief. On October 6, 1944, he embarked for Marseilles, France, and was in combat in the Rhineland and Central Europe. Captured by enemy troops in performance of his duty November 30, 1944, he was at Stalag VA, Ludwigsburg; Stalag III A, Lukenwalde; Stalag XIA, Aultengrabow. He was liberated at Bitterfield, Germany, April 26, 1945. He was awarded the Combat Medical Badge, American Theater Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal, and the Victory Medal. He received his discharge November 21, 1945, at Fort Lewis, Wash.



1

② Percy V. Rougon

Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Army

Husband of Louise Langlois Rougon of Chenal and father of Donald Percy Rougon. He was born September 9, 1915, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Vilas Rougon of Pointe Coupee. He graduated from Poydras High School and Louisiana State University and was an instructor at Louisiana State University. He entered the service January 16, 1942, at Fort Benning and was next at Camp Shelby as motor transport officer, 338th Infantry, and company commander, service company. He was supply officer of the 338th Infantry at Camp Coxcomb, Fort Dix and Camp Patrick Henry and also served in this capacity in Africa and Italy. He departed for Casablanca December 28, 1943 and took part in the Rome-Arno Campaign, the Northern Apennines Campaign, and the Po Valley Campaign. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star Medal, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars. Lieutenant Colonel Rougon reverted to inactive status in the Officers' Reserve Corps January 5, 1946.

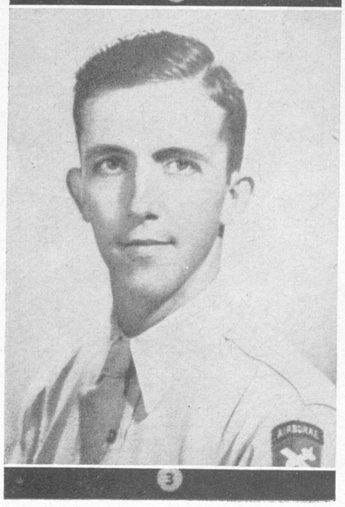


2

③ William M. Harris

Sergeant, U. S. Army

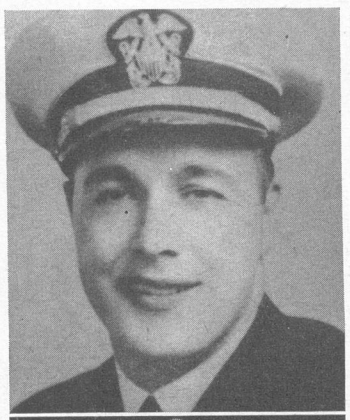
Husband of Beatrice Rougon Harris and father of Robert Wayne Harris, Chenal, was born August 1, 1923, and was educated at high school and college in Bartlesville, Okla., prior to his induction. Entering the service February 26, 1943, at Tulsa, he was assigned to Camp Hood, Texas, as gun commander on an M-10 tank destroyer. From ASTP at Louisiana State University he was assigned to Camp Leonard Wood and Fort Benning, where he qualified as a parachutist and went on cadre duty. Embarking for Leyte April 20, 1945, he served as chief clerk with the 503rd RCT in the Philippines, where he was stationed on Negros Island. In Honshu Province, Japan, he served with the 188th Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 11th Airborne Division. He fought in the Negros Island Campaign and the Philippine Liberation. Sergeant Harris was awarded the Meritorious Service Plaque, Good Conduct Medal, American Theater and Asiatic-Pacific Ribbons, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and Victory Ribbon. He was discharged January 15, 1946, at Fort Bliss.



3

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA







① Charles Edward Hebert, Jr.

Lieutenant, U. S. Naval Reserve

Husband of Gertrude Alford Hebert of New Roads and father of Charles Edward Hebert III. He was born March 11, 1918, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Edward Hebert of New Roads, and attended St. Joseph's Academy, Louisiana State University and Loyola University. He was a dentist in civilian life. Entered USNR on October 26, 1942, at Memphis, Tenn., he served at the U. S. Naval Air Technical Training Center there, then went to Camp Elliott, San Diego, Calif. Lieutenant Hebert want to New Caledonia on April 18, 1944, and served at Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands, and on Guam in the Marianas. He was in combat in the Solomon Islands Campaign and on Guam, and has the Navy Unit Citation Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge on February 22, 1946, at the Naval Air Station in New Orleans.

② Charles Milton Patin

Lieutenant (jg), U. S. Navy

Husband of Lucile Watts Patin, and father of Rita Lou and Pamela Sue Patin, of Chenal, La. He was born November 15, 1917, and attended Catholic High School in Baton Rouge, and Southwestern Louisiana Institute at Lafayette. He was inducted January 16, 1943, at New Orleans, and received his training at the U. S. Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Va.; Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla.; Armed Guard School, Gulfport, Miss.; Amphibious Training Center, Maryland, and Algiers Naval Station in New Orleans. On June 27, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served as officer in charge, LCT, in Admiralty Islands, New Guinea, Philippine Islands and Sasebo, Japan. Lieutenant Patin participated in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, and the invasion of Mindoro Island. He has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Medal with two Battle Stars. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on December 27, 1945. He is the son of Mrs. Cherie Neff Patin, New Roads, La.

③ Edwin Bomer Smith

Lieutenant, Air Forces

Killed in action against the enemy in the Campaign of New Guinea. Lieutenant Smith was the husband of Mrs. Lilian Hudson Smith of Pelham Road, Greenville, S. C., and had one child, Edwin Bomer Smith. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Smith of Blanks, Pointe Coupee Parish, and was born October 22, 1919. A graduate of Livonia High School, he was a student at Louisiana State University prior to entering the Army Air Forces in February, 1942. He trained at Bakersfield, Calif., and received his commission at Williams Field, Ariz., after which he was stationed at Greenville Army Air Base, Greenville, S. C., for four months. On February 14, 1943, he embarked for New Guinea, and served until his death on April 30, 1943, over New Guinea. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Henry N. Chustz

② John Clements Chustz

③ Roy Francis Chustz

④ John Jess Aguillard

⑤ Murphy Joseph Chenevert

⑥ Herman George Chenevert

⑦ Benjamin Joseph Vallet

⑧ Allen R. Fabre

⑨ James Floyd Kent

⑩ Alton R. Kent

⑪ Willie Eugene Cunningham

⑫ Thomas Charles D'Amico

⑬ Lester Joseph Bergeron

⑭ Bennett Andrew Bergeron

⑮ Edmund Major

⑯ Oscar Lawrence Major

⑰ Bernard Jerome Patin

⑱ Roger V. Patin

⑲ Richard S. Patin

⑳ Jacob Henry Gauthier





① HENRY N. CHUSTZ, 1st Lt., FA, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Fabre, New Roads, La. He was born Dec. March 7, 1924, and attended Poydras High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the Army April 7, 1943, he went to Fort Sill, Okla., Field Artillery School (basic, as an officer candidate, and with Training Detachment No. 1). From Camp Van Dorn, Miss., where he served with the 569th FA Battalion, he went to Leyte in the Philippines Aug. 17, 1945, serving with the 480th Amphibian Truck Company on Cebu, P. I., and with Recovered Personnel Division, Manila. He has the Meritorious Service Unit Ribbon and reverted to inactive status Aug. 30, 1946, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

② JOHN CLEMENTS CHUSTZ, Engineer Officer, USN

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Merrick Chustz, Lakeland. He was born Aug. 20, 1921, attended LSU, and was a junior civil engineer, Tennessee Valley Authority. Entering the Navy July 28, 1943, he attended Indoctrination School, Princeton, N. J., and served at Mare Island Navy Yard, Vallejo, Calif., as ship superintendent, assistant industrial manager and naval inspector. He was assistant engineer officer with the USS Soubarissen AO 93, and embarked for the Pacific March 1, 1945, serving at Pearl Harbor, Eniwetok, Guam, Ulithi, Okinawa, Manus, the Philippines and Hong Kong. He has the American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with one Campaign Star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon and Victory Medal.

③ ROY FRANCIS CHUSTZ, S/Sgt., Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Merrick Chustz, Lakeland. He was born March 25, 1923, and attended Poydras High School and LSU, entering the Army Air Forces Oct. 12, 1942, at Harding Field. He served at Sheppard Field, Texas, Iowa State Teachers' College, Santa Ana Army Air Base, Lowry Field, Colo., Harlingen Army Air Field, Texas, Salt Lake City AAB, Utah, Columbia AAB, S. C., Florence AAB, S. C., and Hunter Field, Ga. He embarked for the European Theater April 10, 1944, and went from North Ireland into combat in England and France with the 668th Bombardment Squadron, 416th Bombardment Group, with which he fought in the Defense of Britain and Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes and the Rhineland. He has the Air Medal with nine Oak Leaf Clusters, Good Conduct Medal and Purple Heart (June 6, 1944, for a mission over France).

④ JOHN JESS AGUILLARD,

Private, U. S. Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Dulise Aguillard, Ventress, La. He was born Aug. 26, 1927, and attended Poydras High School. Private Aguillard entered the service Nov. 16, 1945, at New Orleans, and he was sent to Sheppard Field, Texas, for his basic training. From there, he was transferred to Chanute Field, Ill., to attend Parachute Rigger School. He is still on active duty in the service, though it is not known where he is stationed at the present time. He has been in the service for nine months.

⑤ MURPHY JOSEPH CHENEVERT, PFC, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Chenevert of Valverda, Pointe Coupee Parish. He entered the Army of the United States on Feb. 21, 1941, at New Roads and received training at Camp Blanding, Fla., where he also served on guard duty. He served at Savannah Army Air Base, Ga., and Camp Bowie, Texas, going to England where he arrived Sept. 7, 1942, where he served for two years prior to going into combat in the Invasion of Normandy. He fought in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, and the Ardennes, and was fatally wounded in combat in the Campaign of the Rhineland on March 2, 1944. He died the same day at an Army Hospital in Luxembourg and was interred in the American Cemetery there with Catholic rites by an Army chaplain. The Purple Heart, awarded posthumously, was received by his parents at Valverda.

⑥ HERMAN GEORGE CHENEVERT,

Staff Sergeant, Air Forces

Husband of Willie Dean Carey Chenevert, 103 Ark Street, Sweetwater, Texas. He attended Livonia High School and was a mechanic prior to entering the Army on Jan. 15, 1942, at New Roads. He served at Camp Jackson, going to Guatemala where he served as an automotive mechanic assigned to duty in Central America throughout his foreign service. Returning to the States, he served at Greenville Army Air Base, Miss., at Miami, Fla., at Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Ala., at Harding Field, Baton Rouge, and at Avenger Field, Sweetwater, Texas. He was honorably discharged Oct. 16, 1945, and was married Nov. 11, 1945.

⑦ BENJAMIN JOSEPH VALLET, Infantry, Army of U. S.

Foster son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Chenevert of Valverda. He attended Livonia High School and was engaged in farming prior to entering the Army of the United States on Nov. 27, 1944, at New Roads. From the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark., he went to France in April, 1945, and served in Germany with the Army of Occupation in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations.

⑧ ALLEN R. FABRE, PFC, Army of U. S.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Raphael Fabre of New Roads. He was born Jan. 4, 1919, and attended Poydras High School. He was engaged in oil field work prior to entering the Army of the United States Nov. 6, 1941, at Camp Livingston. He served at Fort Bragg, N. C., Indiantown Gap, Pa., New York City (postal clerk), and Camp Plauche, New Orleans, where he received training with the Transportation Corps prior to going to the Sixth Replacement Depot, Manila, on Sept. 22, 1945. He served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater with the 367th Harbor Craft Battalion, and has the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct and Victory Medals, and the American Defense Service Ribbon. He was honorably discharged Feb. 9, 1946, at Camp Fannin.

⑨ JAMES FLOYD KENT, Corporal, Air Forces

Husband of Althea Mae Hobgood Kent of Blanks and father of James Floyd Kent, Jr. He was born Jan. 26, 1923, the son of Mr. and Mrs. David T. Kent, Blanks, and attended Livonia High School. He was with Brown and Root Construction Company, and the Engineering Department, Missouri-Pacific Railroad. Entering the Army Air Forces Jan. 24, 1943, he served at Keesler Field, Miss., Camp Riley, Minn., Kellogg Field, Mich., Camp Stoneman, Calif., Hickam Field, T. H., Schofield Barracks, T. H., Fort McDowell, Calif., Sioux Falls AAB, S. D., Reno AAB, Nev., Berry Field, Tenn., and Fort Totten, N. Y. He went to Honolulu Dec. 14, 1943, as an MP and went to Karachi and Misamari, Assam, India, Kunming and Luliang, China, and Calcutta, India, as an airborne radio operator. He fought in Central Burma and China and has the Presidential Unit Citation (India Wing, China-Burma, India Division, AAF ATC).

⑩ ALTON R. KENT, 1st Sgt., FA, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. David T. Kent of Blanks. He was born June 1, 1911, and is a graduate of Livonia High School. He was a surveyman with U. S. Engineers prior to entering the Army March 18, 1941. He served at Camp Hulen, Texas, as survey sergeant, at Fort Riley, Kan., and Camp Ibis, Calif., as operations sergeant, and Camp Polk as first sergeant. He went to the European Theater on Aug. 20, 1944, and served in England, Northern France, the Rhineland, and the Ardennes as first sergeant with the Field Artillery. He has the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters received Dec. 18, 1944, in the Ardennes at Margaret, Belgium, where he was taken prisoner by the Germans and liberated by the British at Falling Bostel April 16, 1945, the Good Conduct, American Defense Service and EAMETO Ribbons and three Campaign Stars.

⑪ WILLIE EUGENE CUNNINGHAM, Sgt., QMC, AUS

Husband of Lena Kent Cunningham of Blanks and father of Thomas Eugene Cunningham. He was born Aug. 15, 1913, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Cunningham, Hattiesburg, Miss. He attended Leaf River High School, Petal, Miss., and was a U. S. Civil Service Clerk prior to entering the Army Jan. 6, 1942, at Hattiesburg. He served with the Quartermaster Corps at Fort Sill, Okla., Camp Hood, Texas, and Camp Pickett, Va., assigned to duty as supply sergeant, and embarked Sept. 27, 1944, for Europe, where he served in England, France, Belgium and Germany as supply sergeant, and was in combat in the Campaigns of the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the American Theater Ribbon, EAMETO Ribbon with three stars, Good Conduct and Victory Medals.

⑫ THOMAS CHARLES D'AMICO, U. S. Army

Husband of Iola Webre D'Amico and father of Antoinette and Helen D'Amico, Mix, La. He was born Sept. 24, 1910, and attended Poydras High School. He entered the service Jan. 23, 1945, and received his Infantry training at Fort McClellan, Ala. In August, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific area, and was sent to Manila as a member of the occupation troops. He is still on active duty in the service in Manila. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip D'Amico, Mix, La.

⑬ LESTER JOSEPH BERGERON, M/Sgt., Coast Artillery

Husband of Eulalie L. Bergeron of New Roads and son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace J. Bergeron. He was born Jan. 5, 1918, and attended Poydras High School, Louisiana State University and Tyler (Texas) Commercial College. He was with his father in a pecan-shelling plant prior to induction May 28, 1941, into the Coast Artillery Corps. He served at Camp Callan, Calif., and Fort Worden, Wash., and embarked for England July 1, 1942, to serve at Liverpool and in England, going into combat in Normandy and Northern France with the Coast Artillery Corps (Anti-Aircraft Artillery). Master Sergeant Bergeron was honorably discharged Oct. 14, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑭ BENNETT ANDREW BERGERON,

Parachute Infantry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace J. Bergeron, New Roads. He attended Poydras High School and Soule Commercial College and was plant superintendent for H. J. Bergeron Pecan-Shelling plant prior to entering the Army May 26, 1942. He served at Camp Wallace, Texas, Fort William H. Harrison, Helena, Mont., and Fort Ethan Allen, Burlington, Vt., going to the Aleutians July 11, 1943, and to Europe Oct. 28, 1943. He served in Africa, Italy, Corsica, France, Belgium, Germany and Austria with the Parachute Infantry in the Campaigns of Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes, Central Europe. He was also in combat in the Aleutians and has the Good Conduct Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, the APTO and EAMETO Ribbons, and seven Campaign Stars.

⑮ EDMUND MAJOR, 1st Sgt., FA, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Clebert Major of Ventress, Pointe Coupee Parish. He was born Feb. 2, 1917, and attended Poydras High School. Entering the Army in the Field Artillery April 11, 1941, he served at Camp Shelby, Camp Sutton, N. C., Camp Blanding, Fla., Fort Sill, Okla., and Camp Gordon, Ga., as survey sergeant. On Aug. 21, 1944, he went to Oran, North Africa, and served in North Africa, Southern Italy on Anzio Beachhead, and in Southern France and Germany as first sergeant. He fought in the Campaigns of Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the Bronze Star Medal, the EAMETO Ribbon with five Bronze Stars and the Arrowhead for the assault landing in Southern France.

⑯ OSCAR LAWRENCE MAJOR, AMM 1/C, USN Air Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Clerbert Major of Ventress. He was born April 7, 1922, and attended Anchor High School, entering the United States Naval Air Corps Oct. 21, 1940, at San Diego, where he was assigned to the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla., the NAS at Pensacola, Fla., and the NAS at Atlantic City, N. J., machinist and engineering schools. At the NAS, Norfolk, Va., he was supervisor in the assembly and repair of fighter-type Naval aircraft, going to the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn. He served at Naval Air Stations at Atlantic City, Wildwood, N. J., and Virginia Beach (Fighter Squadron 153), as engineer and troubleshooter. On Dec. 11, 1946, he embarked for Pearl Harbor and served with the great aircraft carrier USS Saratoga. He has the Good Conduct Medal, and was continuing to serve in the Pacific area.

⑰ BERNARD JEROME PATIN, United States Navy

Of New Roads, Pointe Coupee Parish. He was born Aug. 16, 1926, and attended St. Joseph Academy and Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on July 27, 1944, at New Orleans, he served at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., the U. S. Naval Station at Gulfport, Miss., and was assigned to the USS Somers DD 381. On April 15, 1945, he embarked for sea duty in the Atlantic and served on convoy duty with the USS Somers in the American Theater and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations.

⑱ ROGER V. PATIN, M/Sgt., SC, AUS

Son of Mrs. Samuel Patin, New Roads. He was born Jan. 23, 1914, and attended St. Joseph Academy and Louisiana State University. He was secretary and bookkeeper for Lieux Chevrolet Company, New Roads, prior to induction into the Army March 18, 1941. Master Sergeant Patin served at Camp Hulen, Texas, and San Diego with the Coast Artillery Corps, and went to Camp Davis, N. C., as battery clerk, AAA, and Camp Stewart, Ga., sergeant major in an anti-aircraft battalion. He served at Indiana University, Camp Crowder, Mo., Vint Hill Farms, Va., and Fort Monmouth, N. J., in languages, cryptography and signal work, going to Honolulu March 20, 1945, with the Signal Intelligence Department, 3792nd Signal Intelligence Detachment, in cryptanalysis and traffic analysis. He has the American Defense Service, American Theater and APTO Ribbons, Good Conduct and Victory Medals.

⑲ RICHARD S. PATIN, Corporal, Armor, AUS

Son of the late Samuel O. Patin and Mary L. Patin of New Roads. He was born Aug. 4, 1923, and attended St. Joseph Academy. He was engaged in farming prior to his induction into the Army of the United States Feb. 24, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He served with a tank destroyer unit at Camp Bowie and Camp Hood, Texas, and Fort Jackson, S. C., and took part in the Tennessee maneuvers prior to embarking for the European Theater Dec. 10, 1944. He served in England, France and Germany and fought in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater Ribbon, the EAMETO Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, and the Victory Medal, and was discharged March 22, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

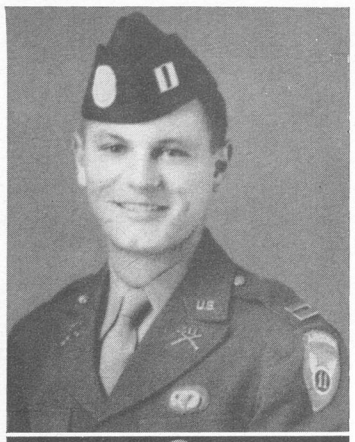
⑳ JACOB HENRY GAUTHIER, Armored Forces, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Gauthier of Ventress. He was born March 30, 1923, and was with Hebert Hardware Store, Baton Rouge, prior to his induction into the Army on March 2, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Camp Bowie and Camp Hood, Texas, also attending Tank Destroyer School. On Dec. 17, 1944, he embarked for England and served as machine gunner in a reconnaissance troop outfit in England, France, Belgium and Germany, assigned to duty with the 656th Tank Destroyer Battalion, attached to the Ninth Armored Division, First U. S. Army, spearheading the drive from the Roer to the Rhine and the Campaign of Central Germany. He has the Good Conduct Ribbon and the European Theater Ribbon with two Stars.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Zach Henry Rougon, Jr.

First Lieutenant, Air Forces

Husband of Ellen Luida Frances Davy Rougon, 416 Bellevue Avenue, Syracuse, N. Y. He is the son of Zacharie Henri Rougon and Gladys Ardrath Davis, Lakeland, and attended Poydras High School, Southeastern Louisiana College and Southwestern Louisiana Institute prior to his induction into the Army Air Forces Reserve June 11, 1942. He served at Santa Aba Army Air Base, Calif., Ryan Primary School at Tucson, Ariz., Yuma AAB, Ariz., Pecos AAB, Texas, Mather Field at Sacramento, Calif., Dateland AAB, Ariz., Columbia AAB, S. C., and Syracuse AAB, New York, all in pilot training. On October 20, 1944, he embarked for Nadzab, New Guinea, and served at Finschafen, N. G., Biak, N. E. I., Dulag, Leyte, Okinawa and Fussa, Japan, in cargo hauling with the Army Air Forces. He fought in the Campaigns of the Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, the Western Pacific, the Southern Philippines, Luzon, the Ryukyus Group and the air offensive over Japan. He has the Air Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with seven Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Star, American Theater Ribbon, Victory and Good Conduct Ribbons.

② James Wilton Lorio

Major, U. S. Army

Husband of Fern Davis Rougon Lorio, and father of James Wilton, Jr., Lakeland, La. He was born Jan. 27, 1920, and attended Jesuit High School and LSU. He entered the service Aug. 25, 1941, and served at Camp Claiborne, La., Camp Toccoa, Ga., Camp Mackall, N. C., and Camp Polk, La. On May 8, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific area where he served as Operations and Training Officer and Headquarters commandant in the Philippine Islands and New Guinea. Major Lorio participated in the Northeast New Guinea, the Leyte and the Cebu campaigns. The Purple Heart was awarded Nov. 27, 1945, for wounds received at Leyte, and he has also the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and the American Theater of Operations Medal. He is still on active duty in the service. He is the son of Dr. Clarence A. and Mrs. Elsie Durr Lorio, 631 North Ninth Street, Baton Rouge, La.

③ Clarence William Cooper

Private First Class, AUS

Husband of Doris Theresa Gremillion of Ventress. He was born Nov. 9, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Robert Cooper of McLean, Texas, and attended McLean School. He was a mechanic in civilian life. Entering the Army April 2, 1942, at Lubbock, Texas, he served at Camp Barkeley, Texas, where he also attended motor school, and at Harrahan Station Hospital at New Orleans, serving for two years as an Army chauffeur. He served with Headquarters Detachment at Cardiff, England, on the Belgian border, at Verdun, the City of Luxembourg and Rheims, France, and on the Rhine. He has the Good Conduct Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, European Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars. Arriving at Boston on the USS Wakefield, he went to Camp Shelby, Miss., where he received his honorable discharge on Nov. 29, 1945.

④ Hewitt Charles Jewell

Corporal, U. S. Army

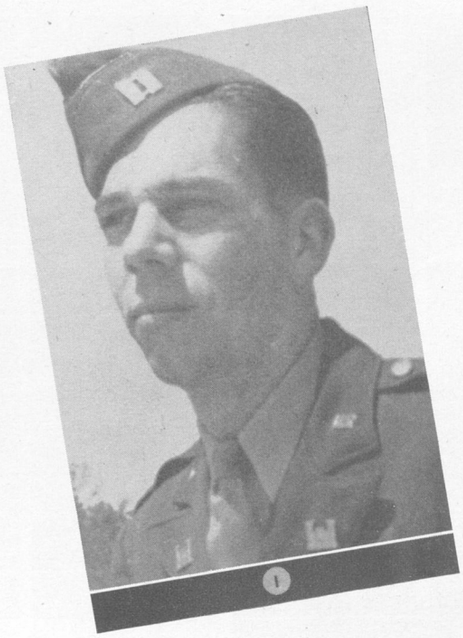
Son of Odile R. Latham and Ellet B. Jewell of New Roads, La. He was born July 25, 1924, and attended Poydras High School and Spencer Business College. He was inducted July 26, 1943, at Lafayette, and received his basic training at Fort McClellan, Ala., and additional training at Fort Meade, Md., and Camp Patrick Henry, Va. On Feb. 8, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and served in England, France, Belgium and Holland with the Infantry. He served with the Sixth Tank Destroyer Group in Germany, with the Army of Occupation operating the prisoner of war camp at Dachau, Germany. Corporal Jewell participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Germany. He is still in the service.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Charles D. Paine

Major, CE, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Charles D. Paine, the former Catherine Bondy of New Roads, and father of Charles Joseph Paine, Cheneyville. He was born May 27, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Paine of Cheneyville, and on his graduation from Louisiana State University (B. S. in Electrical Engineering) entered the Corps of Engineers June 10, 1942, at Fort DuPont, Del., becoming executive officer and company S-3. He went to Bradley Field, Conn., becoming commander of an Airborne Engineer Aviation Battalion, to Westover Field, Mass., and Richmond, Va., where he also served as Battalion S-3 of a provisional training group. On April 25, 1944, he went to Oahu, T. H., and served also on Saipan and Okinawa as company commander of an Aviation Engineering Battalion and on Saipan also as engineering officer. He was in combat in the Compaigns of the Central Pacific and the Ryukyus and has the Distinguished Unit Citation Ribbon (806th Engineer Aviation Battalion), Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two Stars, American Theater and Victory Medals.



① Charles D. Paine

② David John Bondy

First Lieutenant, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Auguste Arthur Bondy of New Roads. He was born December 25, 1922, and attended St. Joseph's Academy, New Roads, and Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge. He was a student at the time of his induction April 7, 1943, into the Army of the United States at Camp Beauregard. He served at Camp Roberts, Calif., and went to Fort Benning (Ga.) Infantry School, as an officer candidate. He served at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., as a platoon leader in the 70th Infantry Division. Lieutenant Bondy embarked for Marseilles, France, on December 6, 1944, and served in the Campaigns of Northern France and the Rhineland as leader with Battalion Anti-Tank Platoon in the 275th Infantry Regiment, 70th Division. He served in the Occupation of Germany with the 15th Infantry Regiment, Third Division. Lieutenant Bondy was wounded in combat and received the Purple Heart February 16, 1945, at 36th General Hospital, Dijon, France. He has the Combat Infantryman's Badge, American Theater Ribbon, European Theater Ribbon with two Branze Campaign Stars, Victory Ribbon, and the Army of Occupation Ribbon. He was honorably released from active duty August 16, 1946, at Fort Bragg, N. C.



② David John Bondy



③ Adam Guidroz

③ Adam Guidroz

Sergeant, AUS

Killed in the fighting in Italy on January 17, 1945. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alberice Guidroz of Pointe Coupee Parish, and was born August 1, 1924. He attended Poydras School in New Roads, Pointe Coupee, and entered the Army of the United States in the Infantry at Alexandria on August 11, 1943. Sergeant Guidroz trained as a machine gunner at Camp Adair, Ore., prior to going to Italy in March, 1944. He served in the bitter combat in Italy as a machine gunner until fatally wounded in action against the enemy on January 17, 1945. He has the Bronze Star Medal, received for gallantry in action against the enemy, and the Purple Heart for Military Merit and for the wounds which cost him his life, presented posthumously on October 18, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Lelio Mix, Jr.

② Edwin F. Mix

③ Andre O. LeBlanc

④ Joseph Elmore Fabre

⑤ Robert Lee Soileau

⑥ William B. Smith

⑦ Francis Denny Joffrion

⑧ Frederick S. Jewell

⑨ Ferdinand Joseph Fabre

⑩ Herman Joseph Chustz

⑪ William E. Murray

⑫ Joseph Emile Gremillion, Jr.

⑬ Milton Mix

⑭ William Joseph Mix

⑮ Alfred J. Mix

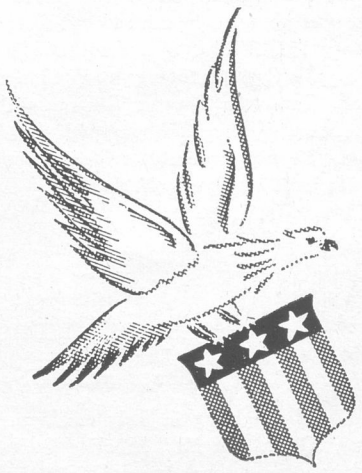
⑯ Lloyd Joseph Chustz

⑰ Fredric G. White

⑱ Wallace Mars

⑲ Wilfred Francis Fabre

⑳ Leopold Joseph Isaac



① LELIO MIX, JR., Seaman, Navy

Lelio Mix, Jr., is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Lelio Mix of New Roads, La. He was born July 21, 1923, and entered the Navy at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill. At this station he was given boot training and prepared for duty aboard ship. He later drew an assignment to Shoemaker, Calif., the naval base at which he received further technical training. These posts were followed by assignments to San Pedro, Calif., and a port in the state of Washington. At this time he was continuing to serve with the Navy and in prospect of seeing duty overseas.

② EDWIN F. MIX, United States Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Lelio Mix of New Roads. He was born Aug. 16, 1928, and entered the United States Naval Reserve on Sept. 28, 1945, at San Diego, Calif., where he received recruit training at the U. S. Naval Training Station. He served at Shoemaker and San Pedro, Calif., at Washington, D. C., and at Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Wash., embarking Jan. 6, 1946, for the Philippine Islands. Stationed at Manila, he served in the air strikes on the Bonin Islands, the Marianas and the Western Pacific, in the Palau Islands and Philippine Campaigns, the Nansei Islands, Okinawa, Formosa and the South China Sea, and in the Occupation of the Japanese home islands and the city of Tokyo. He was continuing to serve with the Pacific Fleet in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations.

③ ANDRE O. LeBLANC, Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Sallie Blanche Watts, Chenal, La. He was born March 16, 1913, and attended Port Allen High School and LSU. He entered the service March 15, 1943, and received his training at Camp Wheeler, Ga., and Fort Meade, Md. On Aug. 3, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater where he served in England, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium and Czechoslovakia. Sergeant LeBlanc participated in the Rhineland, Central Europe and Ardennes Campaigns. He was honorably discharged Jan. 16, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Le Blanc., Sr., Port Allen, La.

④ JOSEPH ELMORE FABRE, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Udell M. Fabre of New Roads, La. He was born March 31, 1925, and attended the Poydras High School. Entering the armed forces May 17, 1944, he was sent to Fort Bliss, Texas for his basic training. Later he was stationed at Camp Hulen and Camp Livingston, Texas. From Fort Ord, Calif., he departed for overseas, serving in Alaska and the Aleutian Islands in the Quartermaster Corps. Joseph returned to the States May 23, 1946, and was discharged the next day, May 24, 1946, at Fort Lewis, Wash.

⑤ ROBERT LEE SOILEAU, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Oleiver Callahan, Lottie, La. He was born March 13, 1923, and attended Bogalusa High School. Inducted Oct. 23, 1942, he received his training at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., Radio School, San Diego, and Advanced Base, San Bruno, Calif. In February, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater where he received training in Mobile Communication at Noumea, New Caledonia, after which he served at Guadalcanal and Guam. He is still on active duty in the service.

⑥ WILLIAM B. SMITH, Seaman First Class, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Bertha Smith, Baton Rouge, La. He was born Nov. 12, 1913. Inducted Oct. 24, 1944, he received his training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif. On April 3, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater where he was assigned to Storekeeper in Aviation Supply Annex on Saipan. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Dec. 8, 1945, at New Orleans. He is the husband of Mabel Smith and the father of Lawrence L., Ernest B., and Joseph K. Smith, 2326 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, La.

⑦ FRANCIS DENNY JOFFRION, Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Corps

Son of Mrs. Lottie C. Joffrion, Rosedale, La. He was born Aug. 5, 1909, attended Shady Grove High School, and was manager of a retail store prior to entering the service. Inducted April 20, 1943, he received his training at Sheppard Field, Texas, Lowry Field, Colo., and Kearns Army Air Base, Utah. On March 19, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific area where he participated in the campaigns of Bismarck Archipelago, Eastern Mandates, Southern Philippines, Luzon, Western Pacific and China Defensive. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with six Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal, and the Distinguished Unit Badge. He was honorably discharged Nov. 30, 1945.

⑧ FREDERICK S. JEWELL, Master Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Joseph P. and Olympe Mix Jewell, New Roads, La. He was born June 14, 1914, and attended Poydras High School and Louisiana State University. He entered the service Dec. 3, 1941, and received his training at Fort Bragg, N. C., after which he served at Camp Beauregard and at Camp Stoneman, Calif. On Dec. 19, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater where he served at New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon and Japan, as Chief Warehouseman. Sergeant Jewell participated in the Campaign of Leyte, and he has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with one Bronze Star, the Philippine Liberation Medal with one Bronze Star, and the American Defense Service Medal. He was honorably discharged Dec. 31, 1945.

⑨ FERDINAND JOSEPH FABRE, Electrician's Mate, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fabre, New Roads, La. He was born April 29, 1924, and attended Poydras High School. He entered the service Nov. 25, 1943, and received his training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego; the University of Kansas, and the Naval Air Base, Norfolk, Va. On Sept. 10, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific area where he served first at Kanako Naval Air Station, Hawaii, and later at Johnston Island. After nine months' duty at Johnston Island, he was returned to Hawaii, where he is serving at the present time.

⑩ HERMAN JOSEPH CHUSTZ, Seaman First Class, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Oreste Chustz, New Roads, La. He was born Jan. 2, 1917, and attended Poydras High School. He was employed by the Standard Oil Company prior to entering the service April 11, 1945. He received his training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, and at Camp Elliot, Calif. On July 30, 1945, he embarked for the South Pacific where he served on a troop ship transporting troops and supplies throughout that area. Seaman Chustz has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged March 22, 1946, at New Orleans. He is the husband of Lillian Marie Fabre Chustz, New Roads, La.

⑪ WILLIAM F. MURRAY, Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

Son of Philomene Serpas Anderson, Frisco, La. He was born Sept. 21, 1915, and attended Livonia High School and Louisiana State

University. Inducted April 21, 1943, he received his training at Sheppard Field, Texas, Greenville, S. C., and at Moody Field, Ga., he served as radio mechanic. On Nov. 14, 1944, he embarked for Italy, where he served as radio gunner on a B-25, participating in the North Apennines and Po Valley Campaigns. The Purple Heart was awarded Dec. 10, 1944, in Italy; and he has also the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters. He was honorably discharged Nov. 18, 1945, and he re-enlisted in the Regular Army Nov. 19, 1945, for a three-year period.

⑫ JOSEPH EMILE GREMILLION, JR., Shipfitter 3/C, Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Emile Gremillion, Sr., Ventress, La. He was born Dec. 30, 1924, and is a graduate of Rougon High School. Prior to his service with the Navy he worked for Todd-Johnson Dry Docks, Inc. He entered service Aug. 17, 1943, and received boot training at Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif. Late training took him to Oceanside and Shoemaker, Calif. He left the United States for the Solomon Islands April 1, 1944, and worked at that base as boat operator until another assignment took him to Peleliu where he performed as a shipfitter. He participated actively in the Battle of Pelelieu. He received his honorable discharge Jan. 20, 1946, at New Orleans.

⑬ MILTON MIX, Infantry, AUS

Husband of Florence Marie Fabre Mix of New Roads and father of Milton, Rita, Alfred and William Mix. He is the son of Joseph Arthur and Aimee Morel Mix of New Roads and attended Poydras High School. He was with Standard Oil Company prior to his induction into the Army of the United States Nov. 21, 1942, at New Roads. At Camp Roberts, Calif., he served with the 90th Infantry Training Battalion, 19th Infantry Training Regiment. He was granted his medical discharge (CDD) as a private at Camp Roberts, Calif., on Feb. 18, 1943, with no time lost under Article of War 107.

⑭ WILLIAM JOSEPH MIX, Seaman 1/C, USN

Son of Mr. Arthur Mix of New Roads, Pointe Coupee Parish. He was born January 13, 1921, and attended Poylras High School in New Roads. He was engaged in farming and also worked as a butcher prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve at New Orleans on Nov. 9, 1942. Seaman First Class Mix served with the United States Naval Reserve throughout his period of military service and was continuing to serve following the cessation of hostilities on the world battlefronts.

⑮ ALFRED J. MIX, Tec/4, MD, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Hilda Mae P. Mix of New Roads and father of Alma Faye Mix. He was born Aug. 15, 1919, and is the son of Mr. Arthur Mix of New Roads. He attended Poydras High School and was engaged in farming, also working as a meat cutter, prior to his induction into the Army of the United States June 10, 1942, at Camp Livingston. Sergeant Mix served at Camp Pickett, Va., Camp Blanding, Fla., Camp Forrest, Tenn., Camp Phillips, Kan., and Camp Shanks, New York, assigned to duty as a medical technician. Embarking April 7, 1944, for the European Theater of Operations he served with a medical detachment in England, France, Holland, Belgium and Germany and was in combat in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes and the Rhineland. He was presented the Purple Heart for wounds received in action on April 4, 1945, at 17th Headquarters, 141st General Hospital, England, and has the European Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars, Good Conduct Ribbon, and Medical Combat Badge. He was honorably discharged Oct. 10, 1945, at Brooke Convalescent Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

⑯ LLOYD JOSEPH CHUSTZ, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Elias J. and Louise Chustz, Morganza, La. He was born Jan. 14, 1920, and attended Morganza High School. Inducted Dec. 28, 1942, he received his Infantry training at Camp Wolters, Texas, and at Camp Stoneman, Calif. On May 8, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Theater where he participated in the Campaigns at Bougainville, Luzon and Manila. Sergeant Chustz has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal with one Bronze Star, the Bronze Arrowhead, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Dec. 19, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss. He is the husband of Frances May Chustz, and the father of Lloyd David, Jr., Morganza, La.

⑰ FREDRIC G. WHITE, PFC, Army of U. S.

Husband of Mrs. Laura White of Ventress and father of Fredric Wallace White. He was born April 23, 1918, and is foster son of Mrs. Alice Noland, Stockport, Ohio. He attended Beverly High School and was with Merrietta Solio Plant prior to entering the Army Dec. 21, 1942, at Fort Thomas, Ky. He served at Camp McCain, Miss., Fort Benning, Ga., Picayune, Miss. (escort duty), Myrtle Beach, S. C. (guard), and Camp Pickett, Va., Corps of Engineers. He embarked for Paris, France, Jan. 3, 1945, and served there with the Engineers. Redeployed to the Pacific area, he served on Okinawa and with the Occupation Forces in Japan. Honorably discharged Nov. 21, 1945, at Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan, he re-enlisted in the Regular Army. He has the American, European and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbons.

⑱ WALLACE MARS, PFC, MC, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ludovic Mars of Ventress. He was born Sept. 28, 1921, and attended Anchor High School, entering the Army on Feb. 2, 1942, at New Roads. From Camp Beauregard he went to Camp Robinson, Ark., for medical training and served at Camp Pickett, Va., prior to going overseas on June 8, 1943, to the European Theater. He served in the Campaigns of Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe with the Infantry at Biscari, Caltagirone, Caltasanetta, Santa Caterina, Alio, Palermo, Termini, Cefalu, Bloody Ridge and San Stefano with a medical detachment. He was at Eboli, Paestum, Salerno, Olivetto, Naples, Benevento, Piedmont, Venafro, Anzio and Rome in Italy and a score of battles from St. Maxime in France to Nuremburg and Munich, Germany, having the EAMETO Ribbon (six stars), Bronze Arrowhead, Good Conduct Medal and Combat Infantry Badge.

⑲ WILFRED FRANCIS FABRE, Corporal, Infantry

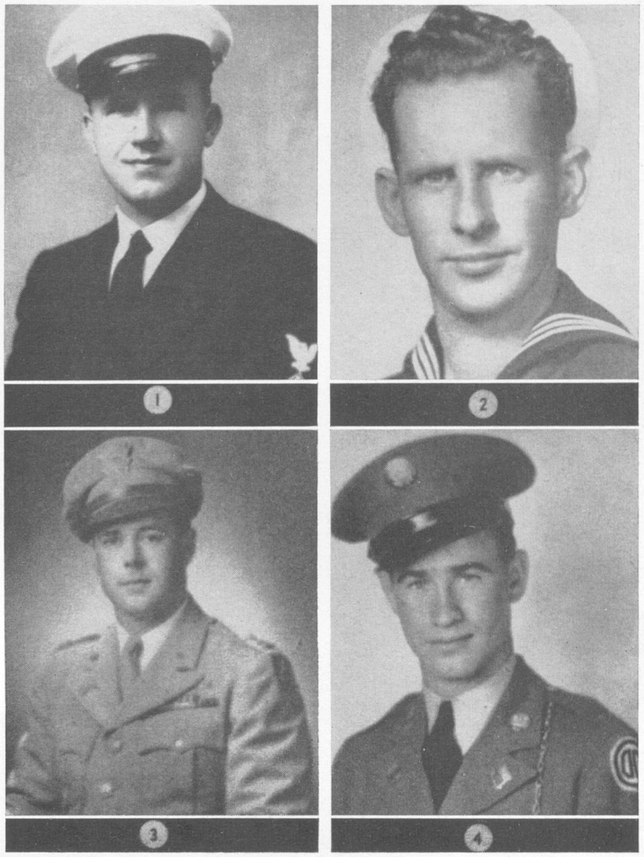
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Febre, New Roads, La. He was born Dec. 18, 1921, and attended Poydras High School. He entered service July 8, 1942, and received training at Camp Carson, Calif. He sailed for Italy June 17, 1944, and fought in the Rome-Arno Campaign. A shift to the Pacific Theater took him to the Philippines and later to Japan. His duties were primarily those of a combat infantryman, for which he holds the badge plus ribbons from three theaters of war. He was relieved of duty with an honorable discharge Jan. 9, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Texas.

⑳ LEOPOLD JOSEPH ISAAC, U. S. Army

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alex Isaac of Ventress, La. He was born Oct. 15, 1907, and received his education at the public schools in Ventress. Upon completion of high school, he entered the armed forces. This was in April, 1941.

(N. M. I. A.)

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Paul O. Pittman

CPO, U. S. Navy

Paul O. Pittman, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Pittman, Hot Springs, Ark., was born March 28, 1915. He is the hsband of Levinia Sara Pittman of 1717 Mante Sano Avenue, Baton Rouge, La. He attended Hot Springs High School and LSU. Before entering the service he worked at the E. I. DuPont Company and the Ethyl Corporation. He was inducted into the service Feb. 11, 1943, at New Orleans, La. From there he was sent to San Diego, Calif., then to Bainbridge, Md., Texas A. & M., Southwestern University at Georgetown, Texas. He was a physical instructor at the above mentioned places. On June 6, 1945, he embarked for the Philippine Islands. He also served at the Leyte and Samar Navy Bases. After more than two years of unselfish service he was honorably discharged Dec. 9, 1945, at New Orleans, La.

② Elvin Edward LeBlanc

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Edward LeBlanc and husband of Louella Inez LeBlanc of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Jan. 29, 1922, and attended Seventh Ward High School. Prior to entering the armed forces he was manager of the Capitol Stores. He entered the service Oct. 1, 1942, at New Orleans, La., later being sent to Hotel Galvez, Galveston, Texas, where he did beach patrol duty. He was also stationed at Hotel Flagler, Jacksonville, Fla. LeBlanc was discharged Oct. 12, 1945, at New Orleans, La. He is the father of Michael Elvin and Troy Edward LeBlanc.

③ Van R. Mayhall

Captain, U. S. Army

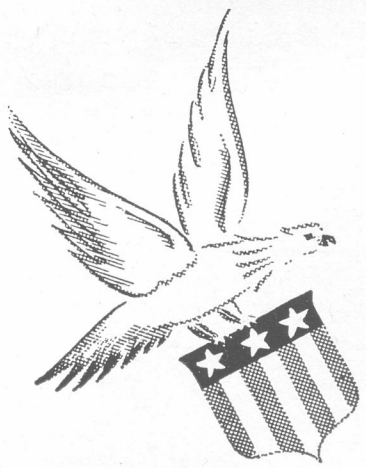
Son of Carney Allen Mayhall, Sr., and husband of Marie Louise Roques Mayhall, he was born July 24, 1919. He attended Catholic High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the service Nov. 25, 1940, he was assigned to Camp Blanding, Fla., where he served as platoon leader with the 156th Infantry, 31st Division. Captain Mayhall followed this outfit to Camp Fisher, N. C., Camp Bowie, Texas, and Camp Dix, N. J. He departed Sept. 25, 1942, for England as company commander of Co. B, 156th Infantry. He participated in the fighting in Northern France, Rhineland and Ardennes. He was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars, the Silver Star and Combat Infantry Badge. After more than four years of meritorious service he was discharged Sept. 13, 1945. He is the father of Van R. Mayhall, Jr.

④ Edward Earl Haynes

M/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Raymond C. Haynes of Gloster, Miss., and husband of Mattie Lou Haynes, he was born Jan. 12, 1918. Haynes attended Bennett Academy and Eupora High School. Entering the service April 28, 1941, he was assigned to Camp Blanding, Fla., later being sent to Camp Bowie, Texas, Camp Shelby, Miss., and Camp Pickett, Va. He departed Feb. 8, 1944, for overseas. Sergeant Haynes participated in the battles of Ataipe, Morotai and Mindano. He was awarded three battle stars, the Bronze Arrowhead and two Presidential Unit Citations. After more than four years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged Oct. 8, 1945. He is the father of Anna Lou Haynes.





Heston C. Daniel

Major, Army Air Forces

Son of the late Dr. and Mrs. James A. Daniel and husband of Martha V. Harding Daniel of Spokane, Wash., he was born August 15, 1916. Daniel attended Plaquemine High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the Army Air Forces October 14, 1940, at Barksdale Field, La., he was assigned to McChord Field, Wash., Pendleton Field, Ore., Columbia Army Air Base, S. C., and Eglin Field, Fla. Major Daniel departed in September, 1942, for England. He was injured in the Battle of Sardinia and received the Purple Heart April 29, 1945. Major Daniel was a prisoner of war from May 21, 1943, until April 29, 1945. He is the holder of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon and American Theater Ribbon. After more than five years of meritorious service he was discharged May 22, 1946. He is the father of Dennis Charles Daniel.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Wiley Benard Raborn

S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Davis Raborn, Sr., of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Alpha Mae DeMont Raborn, he was born Aug. 26, 1924. Wiley attended Hollywood Junior High School, Baker High School, Baton Rouge Trade School and Louisiana State University. Entering the armed forces March 22, 1943, he was assigned to Camp Beauregard, La., for training, later being sent to Tinker Field, Okla., as a Repeaterman. Sergeant Raborn departed Dec. 18, 1944, for Guam and, serving as a Repeaterman, Lineman and Line Foreman, he participated in the Western Defense Campaign. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star, Meritorious Unit Award, American Theatre Campaign Medal and Good Conduct Medal. After faithfully serving his country for three years he was discharged March 1, 1946.

② Thomas Charles Romano

S/Sgt., Army Air Force

Husband of Bertina Blanchard Romano, and son of Mr. Charles Romano of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Nov. 14, 1912. He graduated from Baton Rouge High School and was associated with his father in the bakery business prior to entering the service. He was inducted into the service Nov. 13, 1942, at New Orleans, from where he was sent to Camp Kohler, Sacramento, Calif. Then he was transferred to Port Arthur College, Texas, and to Robins Field, Georgia. He departed for overseas service Aug. 21, 1943, and served in North Africa, Italy, Sicily, Corsica and France, in the capacity of a radio operator. He has the Good Conduct Medal and the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Ribbon. He was honorably discharged Sept. 30, 1945, at Barksdale Field, La., after more than two years of unselfish service to his country.

③ William Winford Kirk

Seaman 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Elvis Kirk of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Oct. 24, 1925. He attended Oak Grove High School and before entering the service was employed by the Oak Grove Dry Cleaners. He entered the service Dec. 28, 1943, and was sent to the United States Naval Training Center at San Diego, Calif. After completing his training, he departed on March 27, 1944, for Pearl Harbor. He was honorably discharged April 27, 1946, at New Orleans, after more than two years of unselfish service to his country with the United States Navy.

④ James Edgar Creel, Jr.

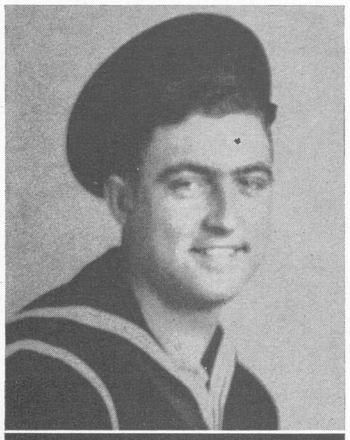
Fireman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Edgar Creel, Sr., of Baton Rouge, La., he was born April 28, 1926, and attended Istrouma Elementary and Istrouma High Schools. Entering the U. S. Navy March 7, 1944, he was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for training. Creel attended Basic Engineer's School at San Diego, Calif. He departed Aug. 8, 1944, for New Guinea and participated in the invasion of Leyte, Philippine Islands, Invasion of Luzon. Creel was killed in action Jan. 12, 1945, while fighting in the invasion of Luzon. The Purple Heart was posthumously awarded his parents April 12, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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② Nelson Alvin Cannon

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Ansil Cannon of Baton Rouge, La., he was born June 5, 1919, and attended Baton Rouge High School. Nelson entered the U. S. Navy January 5, 1942, at New Orleans, La., and received his basic training at Norfolk, Va. He departed Feb. 28, 1942, for sea. His ship was torpedoed and he was on a life raft for seven days. He was then returned to the States, given a 10-day leave, and assigned to a convoy going to Russia. Cannon was killed in the Arctic Ocean when his ship was destroyed by a German bomber. This gallant boy who made the supreme sacrifice for his country participated in the fighting of the Caribbean Sea, North Atlantic, Norwegian Sea, Barents Sea and Arctic Ocean. The Purple Heart was posthumously awarded his parents April 17, 1944.

③ Dominick Joe Michelli

Private, U. S. Marines

Dominick Joe Michelli, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Michelli, 1409 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, La., was born Nov. 23, 1922. He attended University High School and Baton Rouge High in Baton Rouge. On October 28, 1941, he was inducted into the service at New Orleans, La. From there he was transferred to the San Diego Marine Base, San Diego, Calif. He is holder of the American Defense Ribbon. After more than a year of unselfish service to his country, Private Michelli received a medical discharge Nov. 4, 1942, at Fall Brooks, Calif.

① Kenny A. Cannon

S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Ansil Cannon and husband of Daisy Belle Harelson Cannon of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Feb. 6, 1926, and attended Baton Rouge High School. Prior to his entering the service he was employed with the Finance Department, Capitol Building, Baton Rouge, La. He entered the armed forces March 9, 1944, and received his basic training at Camp Hood, Texas. Sergeant Cannon was later assigned to the 304th Infantry Regiment as a squad leader for a 60 mm mortar platoon. He departed Oct. 22, 1944, for overseas and participated in the bitter fighting of the Battle of the Bulge, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. He was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. He received the Purple Heart April 9, 1946. After more than two years of meritorious service for his country, Sergeant Cannon was discharged April 10, 1946.

④ Nick Michelli

PFC, U. S. Army

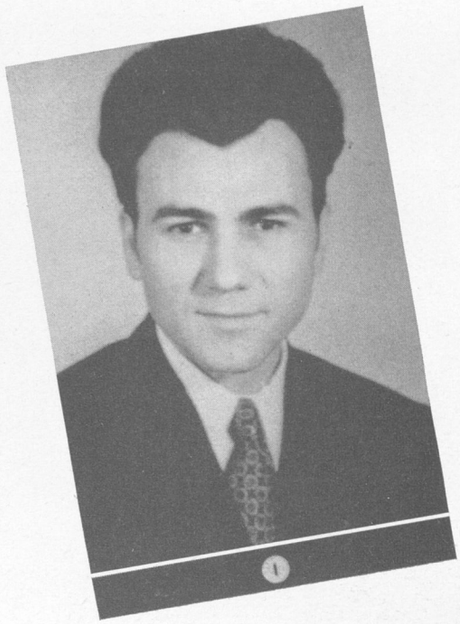
Nick Michelli, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Michelli, Baton Rouge, La., was born Nov. 24, 1918. He attended Junior High School in Baton Rouge and was a merchant prior to entering the service. He was inducted into the service April 7, 1941, at Camp Shelby, Miss. He was first transferred to Fort Bragg, N. C., and later to Camp Bowie, Texas; Camp White, Ore.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; Camp Cooke, Calif.; Fort Warren and Camp Carson. On Oct. 4, 1944, he embarked for overseas service and was a cook in England. He received the Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Victory Ribbon. After more than four years of unselfish service to his country, Private Michelli was honorably discharged at Fort Lewis, Washington, Nov. 3, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① William Edward Landry

Coast Artillery Corps

Son of Mrs. Joe Messina, 2335 June Street, Baton Rouge. He was born October 20, 1917, and attended Warren Easton Boys' High School, New Orleans, and Moler Beauty and Barber College in New Orleans. He was a hairdresser for 12 years prior to his induction into the Army of the United States (Coast Artillery Corps) on July 3, 1941, at Richmond, Va. He served at Camp Lee, Va., and at Camp Wallace, Texas. He served with the Coast Artillery Corps throughout his time of military duty, and was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Wallace, Texas, in December, 1942.



② Robert Carroll Kendrick

Captain, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. James L. Kendrick and the late James L. Kendrick of Homer, La., and husband of Agnes Calloway Kendrick, he was born September 4, 1917. After graduating from Homer High School Kendrick attended Louisiana State University. He entered the service January 27, 1942, and was assigned to Fort Benning, Ga. Later he was shipped to Fort Bragg, N. C. In August, 1944, Captain Kendrick was shipped overseas as company commander of Company C, 513th Parachute Infantry, 17th AB Division. He participated in the bitter European Campaigns. He was awarded the Purple Heart January 4, 1945 at Flamevge, Belgium. He is also the holder of the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars. Captain Kendrick was discharged November 8, 1945. He is the father of Robert Carroll, Jr., and James Lymon Kendrick.





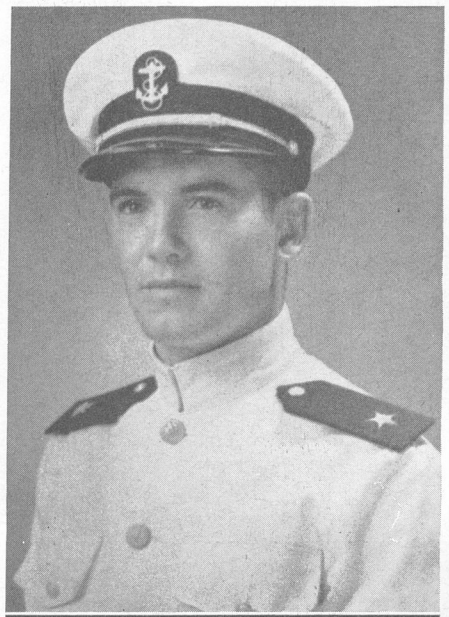


③ Johnnie M. Kirkland

T/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Hyda Kirkland of Liberty, Miss., and husband of Jessie Mae Kirkland of Baton Rouge, La., he was born April 17, 1911, and attended Amite County Agricultural High School. Entering the Army Air Force December 20, 1942, he was assigned to Jefferson Barracks, Mo., for training. Sergeant Kirkland was also stationed at Brookley Field, Mobile, Ala., and Dyersburg Army Air Field, Tenn. He departed November 5, 1943, for England and served 22 months as a mechanic at an Air Base. He served six months in Germany with the occupational troops as a mechanic. Sergeant Kirkland is the holder of the European Theater of Operations Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. He was discharged February 7, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Roch A. LeJeune

Ensign, U. S. Navy

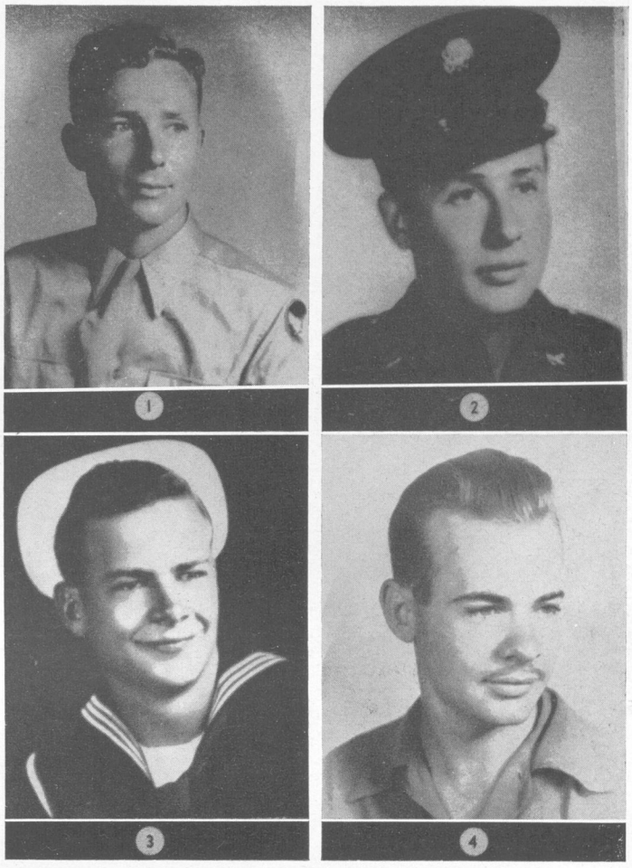
Son of Mrs. J. A. LeJeune of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Sylvia C. LeJeune, he was born September 27, 1922. LeJeune attended Baton Rouge High School and prior to his enlistment was employed by the U. S. Post Office. Entering the service October 7, 1942, he received training at Athens, Ga., Memphis, Tenn., Corpus Christi, Texas, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Norfolk, Va., Quonset Point, R. I., Boca Chica, Fla., and Grosse Isle, Mich. Departing October 7, 1944, for the North Atlantic, LeJeune served with the Anti-Submarine Warfare. He was discharged October 18, 1945, and is now employed with the U. S. Post Office. He is the father of Roch A. LeJeune, Jr.

② Edgar Warren Seefield

First Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar William Seefield and husband of Mrs. Evelyn Keller Seefield, he was born February 4, 1923. Seefield attended school at Baton Rouge, La. Entering the service August 17, 1942, he was assigned to San Antonio, Texas, where he began his training as a bombardier, navigator and observer. He departed July 29, 1944, for overseas as a bombardier-navigator on a B-26 and participated in the Rome-Arno, North Apennines, Southern France, Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns. Lieutenant Seefield was awarded the Air Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, Presidential Unit Citation with Cluster, Croix de Guerre and Victory Medal. He flew 54 combat missions with the 17th Bomb Group. After more than three years of meritorious service he was discharged October 20, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Robert E. Durnin

Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of R. C. Durnin and the late Louise K. Durnin and husband of Inez J. Durnin of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Nov. 10, 1914, and attended Montpelier High School. Prior to his services with the U. S. Army, Durnin served four years with the U. S. Navy and one year with the Merchant Marines. He entered the Army Air Forces Jan. 9, 1942, and received basic training at Ft. Eustis, Va. He was later assigned to Gulfport Field, Miss., Las Vegas Army Air Field, Nev., and Lowry Field, Colo. Corporal Durnin departed in May of 1943 for Panama were he was a member of a four-man crew on a small speed boat taken from New Orleans to Panama. Durnin was discharged in September of 1945.

② Norwood G. Durnin

PFC, U. S. Army

Son of R. C. Durnin and the late Louise K. Durnin, he was born Feb. 28, 1920. Norwood resided with his grandmother, Mrs. D. S. Killian, of Amite, La., while attending Montpelier High School and Southeastern Louisiana College. He entered the armed forces Jan. 7, 1942, and received training at Camp Wheeler, Ga., Ft. Meade, Md., and Camp Blanding, Fla. Norwood departed in October of 1942 for England. He fought in the Normandy Campaign as an infantryman. This gallant soldier died of wounds received in the bitter fighting at Normandy and is buried in the LaCambe Cemetery in France. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon with one bronze star, the Distinguished Unit Badge, Presidential Citation, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. He received the Purple Heart July 11, 1944, at St. Lo, France.

③ Robert E. Hooks

U. S. Naval Reserve

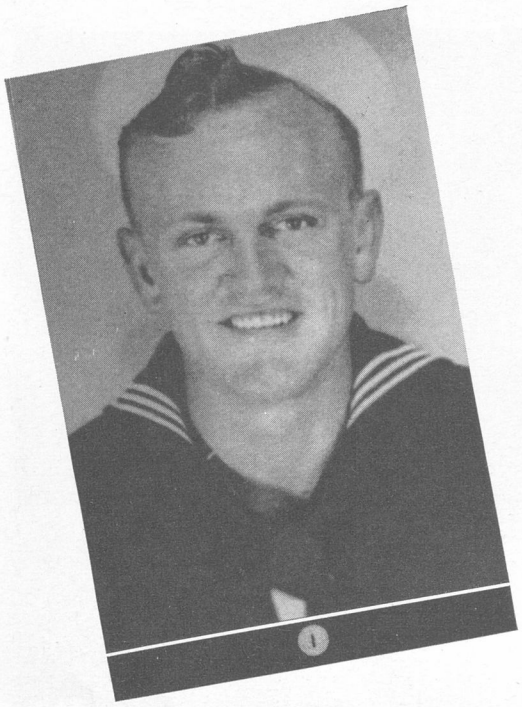
Robert E. Hooks was born Feb. 4, 1927. He attended Istrouma High School, and prior to entering the armed service he worked at Harding Field Air Base, Baton Rouge. On December 4, 1944, he was inducted into the Naval Reserve at San Diego, Calif., where he received recruit training. On Oct. 20, 1945, he departed for overseas service and served in the South Pacific on the USS Bairoko, returning to the United States Jan. 28, 1946. Robert Hooks is still with the United States Naval Reserve, and is now stationed at the Naval Air Station in San Diego, Calif. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Myrtis L. Hooks, 1660 West Monte Sano Avenue, Baton Rouge, La.

④ Myrtis L. Hooks, Jr.

Private, AAF

Myrtis L. Hooks, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Myrtis L. Hooks, Sr., of 1660 West Monte Sano Avenue, Baton Rouge, La., was born Oct. 2, 1924. He attended Istrouma High School, and before entering the service he was a filling station operator. He was inducted into the service on May 20, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, La. From there he was sent to Amarillo Army Air Field at Amarillo, Texas. After several months of unselfish service to his country, Private Hooks received a medical discharge on Sept. 1, 1943, at Amarillo Army Air Field, Amarillo, Texas.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



in handling casualties during Iwo Jima and Okinawa Campaigns. He is also the holder of the American Theater, Asiastic-Pacific Ribbons and Good Conduct Medal. After faithfully serving his country for more than three years he was discharged December 10, 1945.

② Noah Norman Babin

Coxswain, U. S. Navy

Born December 20, 1925, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph B. Babin of Baton Rouge, La. He attended a Catholic High School, later entering Baton Rouge Trade School. Babin entered the U. S. Navy December 18, 1943, at New Orleans, La., and received training at San Diego, Calif., and Oceanside, Calif. He departed July 18, 1944, for the Pacific and participated in the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign. Babin is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon and the Victory Medal. He was discharged May 10, 1946.





③ Varise Albert Turner

B 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Forest Turner of Bunkie, La., and husband of Mrs. Flora A. Turner of Baton Rouge, La., he was born April 23, 1906. He attended Evergreen High School, Avoyelles Parish, and Baton Rouge Business College. He was employed as route foreman for Louisiana Creamery, Inc., Baton Rouge, La., for 20 years. On Nov. 12, 1942, he was inducted into the service and assigned to the U. S. Navy and received his boot training at U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif. He was later sent to U. S. Naval Air Station, North Island, Calif., U. S. Naval Ordnance Testing Station, Inyokern, Calif., and USS Pinkney, hospital evacuation ship. On June 28, 1945, he embarked for the South Pacific. After more than three years of loyal service to his country, he received his discharge at San Pedro (Calif.) Separation Center.

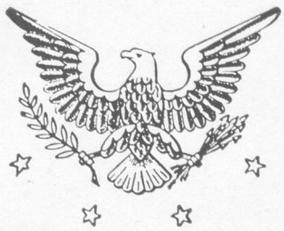
① Pershing W. Giblin

Pharmacist's Mate 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Richardson of Brittany, La., and husband of Johnnie Marie Giblin of Baton Rouge, La., he was born March 14, 1922, and attended Gonzales High School. Prior to his services with the Navy he was a salesman for Louisiana Creamery, Inc., at Baton Rouge. Giblin entered the service November 5, 1942, and received training at San Diego, Calif. He was later assigned to United States Fleet Hospital No. 111. This hospital was moved to the Mariana Islands (Guam) in July, 1944. Giblin received commendation by the commanding officer for untiring efforts



The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

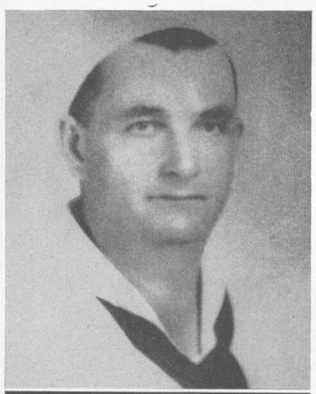


① Leon H. Brown

PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brown of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Sept. 21, 1924, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the service April of 1942, Brown was assigned to Camp Maxey, Texas, for Infantry training. He departed in October of 1944, for England and participated in the bitter fighting of the Ardennes, Bulge and Belgium. This gallant soldier gave his life defending his country Dec. 18, 1944. The Purple Heart was posthumously awarded his parents.



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② J. L. Stone

S 1/C, USNR

Husband of Mrs. J. L. Stone of Clinton and son of George Ellis and Serena Alzada Stone of Grangeville, St. Helena parish. He was born Sept. 15, 1905, and was a farmer prior to entering the United States Naval Construction Battalions at New Orleans April 6, 1942. From the US Naval Construction Battalions training center, Norfolk, Va., he sailed July 14, 1942, for Dutch Harbor, Alaska, where he served with the Seabees in Naval construction work to Feb. 18, 1943. From the USS Wharton he went to the US Naval Hospital at Treasure Island, San Francisco, Calif., where he was granted his honorable discharge (medical) on April 29, 1943.

③ Lewis P. Thomas

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Alfred A. Thomas, he was born March 17, 1924. After graduating from Byrd High School in Shreveport, La., he entered Louisiana State University. Thomas entered the service Dec. 10, 1942, and received training at Camp Beauregard, La., Camp Maxey, Texas, Camp Miles Standish, Mass., Camp Shelby, Miss. As a trained infantryman, Sergeant Thomas participated in the bitter fighting of the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central European Campaigns. He war awarded the Purple Heart April 7, 1945. He is also the holder of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon, the American Theatre Ribbon, the Good Conduct Ribbon and Victory Ribbon. After three years of meritorious service to his country, Sergeant Thomas was discharged Nov. 16, 1945.

④ Lee Joseph Fortier, Jr.

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Lee Joseph Fortier, Sr., of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Peggy Hopkins Fortier, he was born Nov. 23, 1920, and attended Catholic High School and Louisiana State University. Fortier entered the service Feb. 14, 1942, and was a member of the Army Air Corps Band at Harding Field, Baton Rouge, La.; Walker Field, Kan.; Kirtland Field, N. M. Sergeant Fortier was discharged at Barksdale Field, La., on Nov. 17, 1945, and is now attending Louisiana State University.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



② Tillman Anthony Delahaye

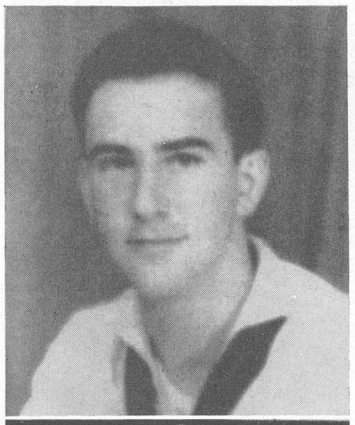
R2/C, U. S. Navy

Tillman Anthony Delahaye was born August 13, 1922, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Delahaye of Port Allen, La. He attended Port Allen High School, Port Allen, La., and Spencer Business College, Baton Rouge, La., and was employed as a secretary prior to his induction on October 13, 1942, at New Orleans, La. He was assigned to the U. S. Navy and received his boot training at San Diego, Calif., and later assigned to Radio School of Texas A. & M. College. On April 16, 1943, he embarked for overseas, serving as a radio operator in New Caledonia and Fiji Islands. He was later transferred to Aircraft Carrier Randolph, where he served as radio operator on staff of Commander of Carrier Division Four. This courageous sailor saw action at Okinawa and was killed in a plane crash on the deck of the Randolph on June 7, 1945, in Leyte Gulf, Philippines.

③ Joseph Owen Delahaye

Lieutenant, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Delahaye of Port Allen, La., he was born August 10, 1916. Delahaye attended Brusly High School and Louisiana State University. Prior to his services with the Navy he was employed as an accounting clerk for the Texas Company at New Orleans. Entering the service April 15, 1942, he was sent to the University of Notre Dame for indoctrination. He received training at Key West, Fla., Miami, Fla., St. Petersburg, Fla., and San Pedro, Calif. Lieutenant Delahaye departed May 9, 1945, for the Pacific and served with the Commander Seventh Fleet Staff on Leyte and Manila. He also served with the Commander Philippine Sea Frontier (staff) at Manila. He was discharged April 19, 1946.



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① Vincent Michael Corsentino

Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Corsentino of Baton Rouge, La., he was born May 3, 1921, and attended Baton Rouge High School. Entering the service October 17, 1942, he received training at St. Petersburg, Fla., Atlanta, Ga., and Richmond Army Air Field, Richmond, Va. Corporal Corsentino departed May 23, 1944, for overseas and served in China, India and Burma with the Field Dispensary. He participated in the India-Burma and Central Burma Campaigns. He is the holder of the Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. After more than three years of meritorious service to his country, Corporal Corsentino was discharged November 5, 1945, at San Antonio, Texas.



The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Anthony Leon Browning

T/5, U. S. Army

Anthony Leon Browning, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Franklin Browning, Greenwell Springs, La., was born July 30, 1919. He attended Central High School, Baton Rouge. He was inducted into the service Feb. 27, 1941, at Baton Rouge, La., and received training at Camp Blanding, Fla., Fort Fish, N. C., Camp Bowie, Texas, Camp Claiborne, La., and Camp Anza, Calif. He served in the capacity of truck driver. He departed for overseas March 30, 1943, and served in Tehran, Iran, Hamadan, Iran, and Tabriz, Iran. After more than four years of unselfish service, he was honorably discharged Oct. 18, 1945, at Fort McPherson, Ga.



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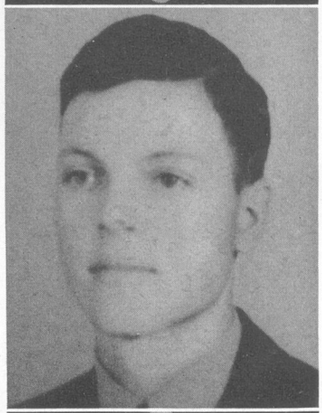
② Willie Owen Flowers

Electrician's Mate Third Class, U. S. Navy

Husband of Birdye Browning Flowers, Route 4, Baton Rouge, La., he was born Sept. 25, 1916, attended Calhoun High School, and was an electrical linesman prior to entering the service. Inducted Aug. 31, 1943, at New Orleans, he received his training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif. Assigned to the USS Corregidor (CVE 58), he embarked for overseas Dec. 22, 1943, serving throughout the islands of the South Pacific. He participated in the campaigns of the Marshall Islands, Eniwetok, Solomon Islands, Admiralty Islands, New Guinea, the Invasion of Hollandia, the Invasion of Eitape, the Invasion of Saipan, and the Invasion of Tinian. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre of Operations Medal with Four Bronze Stars. He was honorably discharged at San Pedro, Calif., on Nov. 25, 1945.



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③ Russell Edwin Strain

Chief Machinist's Mate, U. S. Navy

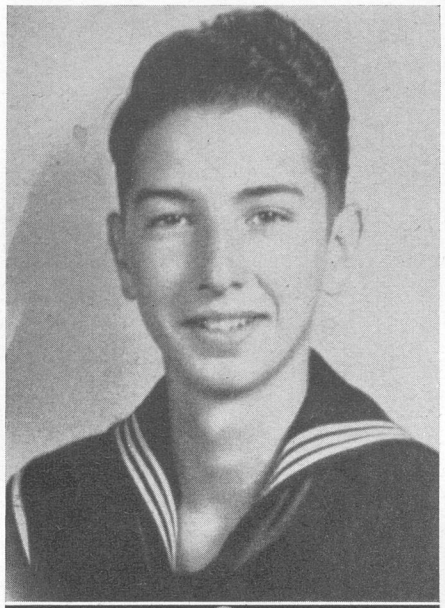
Russell Edwin Strain, husband of Effie Browning Strain of Baton Rouge, La., was born July 17, 1913. He attended Saint Gabriel High Schol. He was inducted into the service Jan. 9, 1943, at New Orleans, La., and from there was sent to Camp Bradford, Norfolk, Va. Later he was stationed at Camp Indicott, Davisville, R. I., Camp Roussear, Port Heunemine, Calif., and Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif. He served as operator for heavy equipment. He departed for overseas service May 19, 1943, at Dutch Harbor, Alaska, and also served in the New Hebrides, and Wake Island. After more than two years of unselfish service he was honorably discharged Nov. 13, 1945, at New Orleans. Strain is the son of Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Strain and the late Mr. Edwin Strain, Baton Rouge.

④ Lee Willard Roberts, Jr.

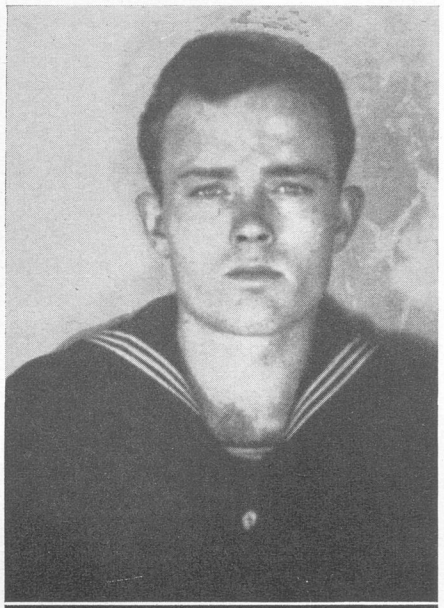
PFC, Coast Artillery Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Willard Roberts, Route 2, Alexandria. He was born Oct. 4, 1917, and was graduated from Poland High School. He was with the US Post Office Department at Alexandria when he entered military service Oct. 12, 1942, at Shreveport, in the Enlisted Reserve Corps. Called to active duty Oct. 26, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, he went to Cristobal, Panama Canal Zone, on Nov. 6, 1942, to serve as a member of Headquarers and Headquarters Detachment, Second Battalion, 196th Coast Artillery (anti-aircraft) at Fort Amador, Canal Zone, and on Galapagos Island, Ecuador. He served in defensive warfare with the CAC (AAA) under almost constant enemy activity in the American Theatre. He was honorably discharged (certificate of disability) on Oct. 28, 1943, at Gulfport, Miss.

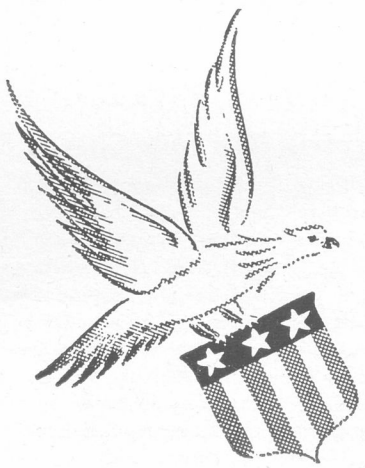
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Louis A. Aime

Naval Reserve

Was born August 11, 1928, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Abel Peter Aime of Baton Rouge, La. He attended Dutchtown and Baker Grammar Schools and is a graduate of Istrouma High School. Prior to his services with the Armed Forces he was employed as a mechanic helper. May 17, 1945, he entered the U. S. Navy and was sent to San Diego, Calif., for basic training. He was then sent to San Pedro, Calif., and on December 20, 1945, was assigned to the USS Nehenta Bay. Departing January 10, 1946, for Boston, Mass., he passed through the Panama Canal enroute. Louis is now in the Naval Reserves.

② Kenneth E. Brown

Coxswain, U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Rev. and Mrs. Andrew E. Brown and husband of Thelma Mary Brown of Baton Rouge, La., he was born January 22, 1921. He attended Homer High School and later was employed as a salesman with Louisiana Creamery. Entering the service August 12, 1942, Brown received training at Pascagoula, Miss., Port Arthur, Texas, Houston, Texas, and Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Md. Brown departed for the South Pacific February 5, 1945, and participated in the fighting of the Asiatic-Pacific and Philippine Liberation Campaigns. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon and Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal. After more than three years of faithful service to his country, Brown was discharged December 26, 1945.

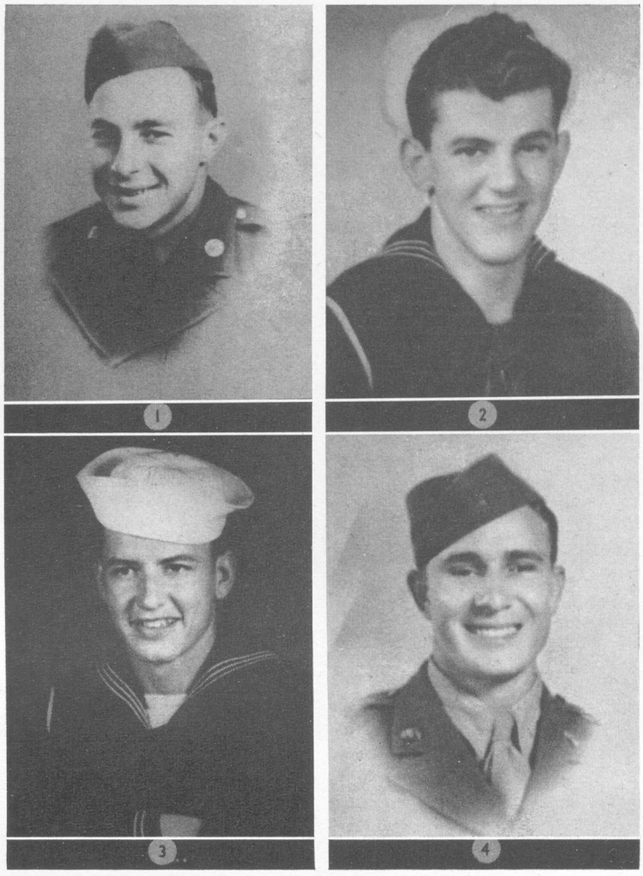
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Harold Sartin Shrader

Lieutenant, CAC, AAA, AUS

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Shrader, he was born Nov. 8, 1920, and was a graduate of Central High School, Baton Rouge. He was an operator for E. I. DuPont de Nemours Company at Baton Rouge prior to his induction into the Coast Artillery Corps on March 14, 1941, at Baton Rouge. He served at Camp Hulen, Texas, and at San Diego, Calif., in the West Coast Defense with the 204th Coast Artillery (anti-aircraft). From Officer Candidate School at Camp Davis, N. C., he went to Fort Bliss, Texas, as an officer with the 163rd Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion. He went to the South Pacific Theatre Aug. 16, 1943, and served at Brisbane and Townsville, Australia, and Milne Bay, New Guinea, as battery commander, Battery D, 163rd AAA Battalion. He served as first lieutenant in charge of motor transport with the same unit on Woodlark Island, Goodenough Island and Aitape, New Guinea. He went into combat in the Invasion of New Guinea. Lieutenant Shrader died of wounds received in action at Aitape in the Campaign of New Guinea on May 23, 1944. He was posthmously awarded the Purple Heart presented to his sister, Mrs. H. J. Angelle.



② Roy Romano

Gunner's Mate 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Romano of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Mrs. Roy Romano, he was born July 10, 1924. Romano attended St. Agnes Catholic High School. Entering the service July 23, 1943, he was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for training. He was then assigned to the USS West Virginia as a seaman and gunner's mate. Departing Sept. 7, 1944, for overseas, Romano participated in the fighting at Leyte, Surigao Straits, Mindora, Luzon, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Ribbon with four stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two stars, the American Theatre Ribbon and Victory Medal. After more than two years of meritorious service to his country he was discharged Feb. 23, 1946.

③ Lawrence Philip Landry, Jr.

RM 2/C, Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Landry, 720 France Street, Baton Rouge, La., he was born April 18, 1926, and is a graduate of Baton Rouge High School. Prior to his entry into the service he worked as a clerk in retail stores. He joined the Navy June 21, 1943, and received training in San Diego, Camp Bruno and Oceanside, Calif. He sailed for Hawaii in February of 1944, and saw duty at many bases in the Pacific, including Guadalcanal. He wears the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two battle stars and received a commendation for faithful service. His service with the Navy came to an end Feb. 20, 1946, when he received his honorable discharge at the Naval Personnel Separation Center, New Orleans, La.

④ Percy Vincent Bizette

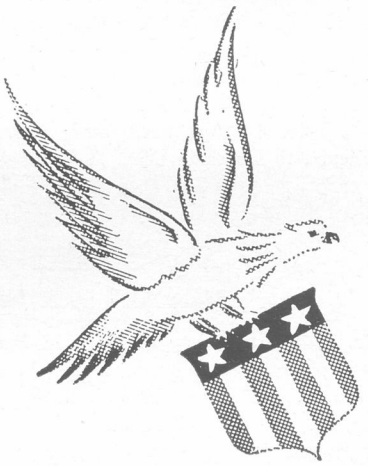
Private First Class, U. S. Army

Husband of Marie Loula Bizette, and father of Beryl Ann Bizette, 2639 Iberia Street, Baton Rouge, La., he was born July 24, 1923, attended San Antonio High School, and was an electric welder prior to entering the service. Inducted April 14, 1944, at Camp Beauregard, he received his basic training at Camp Robinson, Ark., and was assigned then to Fort George F. Meade, Md. On Sept. 25, 1944, he embarked for the European Theatre and served in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, participating in campaigns in Holland and Germany. Private First Class Bizette was awarded the Purple Heart in England on Jan. 15, 1945, and he has also the European Theatre of Operations Medal, the American Theatre of Operations Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was given a disability discharge at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on Feb. 11, 1946. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Joseph Bizette, 3130 Sycamore Drive, Baton Rouge, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA







① Harold August Lanier

Lieutenant, U. S. Naval Reserve

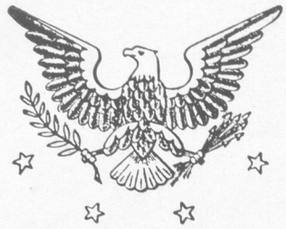
Husband of Marguritte C. Lanier, Lieutenant Lanier was born April 29, 1909. He is the father of Harold August Lanier II and Joseph Archie Lanier. They reside in Baton Rouge, La. He attended McDonogh Jefferson High School, Gretna, La., and Louisiana State University. He was inducted into the service on December 8, 1942, at New Orleans. He was sent to the Naval Training School at Noroton Heights, Conn., and had communications training. He departed for overseas March 8, 1943, his first assignments being at Balboa, Canal Zone. He was later sent to Puerto Castilla, Honduras, and Pearl Harbor. He participated in the battles of the Philippines, Marianas and Palau. He is holder of the American Defense Service Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with four Stars, and the Victory Ribbon. He was honorably discharged November 22, 1945, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. August Louis Lanier, Alexandria, La.

② Alfred B. Singletary, Jr.

Major, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred B. Singletary and husband of Floris Ramires Singletary, he was born August 17, 1904, and attended Baton Rouge High School after which he entered Louisiana State University. Prior to his services with the U. S. Army, Singletary was employed in the Department of Revenue, State of Louisiana. Entering the Army February 15, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Beauregard, La., as Transportation Officer, later being sent to Fort Clark, Texas. Major Singletary served in the capacity of instructor in the infantry school at Fort Benning, Ga., and was company commander at Camp Fannin, Texas. He departed in July, 1945, for the Philippines where he served in the office of the Chief Engineer. Major Singletary was discharged May 6, 1946, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He is the father of Elizabeth M. and Mannie Bell Singletary.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Edward S. Rogge

PFC, U. S. Marines

Son of Edward S. Rogge, Sr., and the late Mrs. Rogge and husband of Evelyn K. Rogge, he was born Dec. 20, 1923. Rogge attended Catholic High School. Entering the service Dec. 15, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Elliott, Calif., for advanced infantry training. Departing Oct. 28, 1943, for overseas, Rogge participated in the fighting at Cape Gloucester, New Britain and Pelelieu in the Palau group. He was wounded on the morning of Oct. 1, 1944, by a sniper. PFC Rogge was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two stars and the Purple Heart. He was discharged July 13, 1945.



② Willie E. McQueen

Tec/4, FA, Army

Husband of Mrs. Ruth M. McQueen, 436 Gebelin Street, Baton Rouge, and father of Jane Elizabeth McQueen. He is the son of Mrs. Kaleta McQueen and attended W. R. McKowen High School. He was an automotive mechanic prior to entering the Army of the United States in the Field Artillery on April 7, 1941, at Camp Shelby. He served with the Field Artillery at Fort Bragg, N. C., Camp Forrest, Tenn., Camp Roberts, Calif., Fort Lewis, Wash., Camp Gordon, Ga., and Fort Jackson, S. C. On January 26, 1945, he embarked for Germany, where he fought in the closing of the Ruhr Pocket in the Campaign of Central Europe. Returning to the States, he was honorably discharged Jan. 3, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

③ James E. Robertson, Jr.

Tec/4, Aviation Engineers

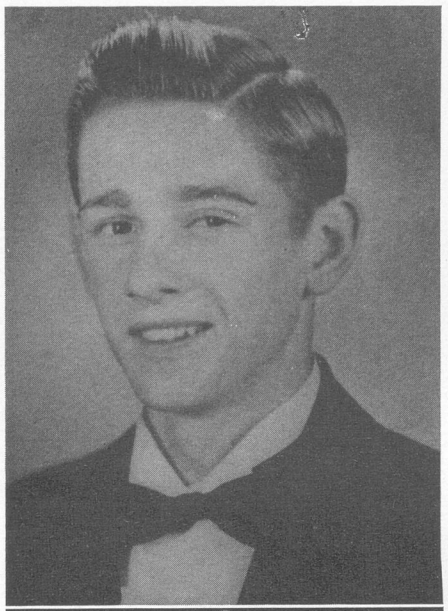
Son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Robertson of Route 1, Baker. He was born Oct. 14, 1924, and attended Central High School. He entered the Corps of Engineers (Aviation) on March 26, 1943, at Camp Beauregard and went to Jefferson Barracks, Mo., for basic training. From Fort Belvoir, Va., Specialist School, he was assigned to Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, as an engineer in construction work. On Oct. 23, 1943, he embarked for Australia and served in engineer construction work at Finschafen and Hollandia, Netherlands New Guinea, Tacloban on Leyte in the Philippines, and Cebu City on Cebu in the Philippines. He also served at Cagaayan, Mindanao, in the Philippines. He was in combat in New Guinea and the Philippines and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre of Operations Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Campaign Star, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged on Jan. 11, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Texas.

④ Ernest Lorrain Hebert

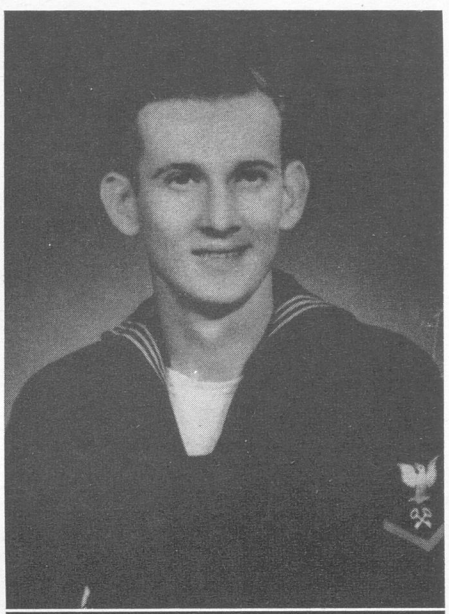
S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest O. Hebert and husband of Eleanor V. Hebert of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Aug. 27, 1913. Hebert attended Clarksdale High School at Clarksdale, Miss. Prior to his service with the U. S. Army he was employed as a postal clerk at Baton Rouge, La. Hebert entered the service Dec. 24, 1943, at New Orleans, La. Serving with the transportation corps he was assigned to Camp Lee, Va. Later he was transferred to the San Francisco POE Army Post Office and to Camp John T. Knight. Sergeant Hebert is the holder of the Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was honorably discharged at Camp Beale, Marysville, Calif., Dec. 9, 1945. He is the father of Jeanne, Michael and Terry Hebert.

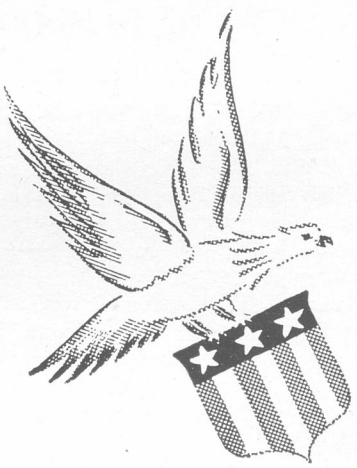
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Albert Phillips Dyer

Seaman 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Dyer of Baton Rouge, La. He attended the L. S. U. Medical School in New Orleans and entered the Armed Forces October 12, 1944. When he completed his boot training at San Diego, Calif., he developed the mumps and was sent to Balboa Naval Hospital. He later developed pneumonia and died December 29, 1944.

② Ollie Dyer, Jr.

Storekeeper 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ollie Dyer, Sr., of Baton Rouge, La. He departed February 2, 1944, for overseas and served at Majuro Island, Marshall Islands, and Eniwetok Island. He was sent overseas again July 21, 1945, and was stationed aboard the USS Samar, later being sent to Shanghai, China, as part of the Seventh Fleet.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Charles Austin Devillier

PFC, Airborne Transport

Husband of Vertelee Marie Patin Devillier, 1724 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge. He was born Dec. 19, 1921, and attended Baton Rouge High School. He was a mechanic prior to entering the Army in an Airborne Truck Company Oct. 19, 1942, at Baton Rouge. He embarked for Northern Australia Feb. 29, 1942, and served in Australia with a semi-trailer truck unit unloading ammunition and hauling it to AAC units in and around Darwin. He served on Leyte in the Philippines unloading bombs and hauling them to bomb depots and evacuating civilian population. He served in Manila on Luzon, P. I., in evacuation and bomb disposal duties, and was in combat on Leyte and Luzon, having the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Ribbon with two bronze stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Star, Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Tyler, Texas, Dec. 28, 1945.

② George Taylor Causey

Private, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest R. Causey of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Oct. 1, 1914, and attended school at Baton Rouge, La. Prior to his services with the U. S. Army, Causey was employed by the J. C. Penney Company. Causey entered the service Oct. 6, 1938, at Fort Davis in the Panama Canal Zone where he received training. Later he was sent to Ft. Benning, Ga., as a truck mechanic. He was honorably discharged Dec. 24, 1942, at Ft. Benning, Ga.

③ Charles W. Brueck

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Mildred Brueck of Kentwood, La., he attended Lincoln High School at Wesson, Miss. Entering the service April 19, 1943, at Houston, Texas, he was assigned to Sheppard Field, Texas, for basic training. Later he was sent to Gulfport Field, Miss., where he received training as an airplane mechanic. Brueck also attended Douglas Aircraft School at Long Beach, Calif. He departed Sept. 1, 1944, for England, later serving in France as an aerial engineer on C-47's. He participated in the Central Europe, Ardennes and Rhineland Campaigns. Sgt. Brueck was awarded the European Theatre Ribbon with three bronze stars and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Sept. 12, 1945, at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

④ Joseph D. Brueck

S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Brueck of Baton Rouge, La., he was born March 19, 1924, and attended Baton Rouge High School. Entering the Army Air Force Oct. 20, 1942, Brueck was assigned to Lake Charles Army Air Field, La. He was later sent to Wendover Aerial Gunnery School, Utah. Sergeant Brueck departed Jan. 28, 1944, for North Africa. He participated in the fighting of Air Combat in Europe, Air Combat in the Balkans and Rome-Arno Campaigns. Sergeant Brueck was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three bronze stars, Air Medal with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, the Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal. After three years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged Sept. 7, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN *of* LOUISIANA



① Thomas Boyd Brown

② Ambrose Floyd Brown

③ Melvin Clark Brown

④ Delbert E. Hunt

⑤ Walter Henry Noble

⑥ James Louis Wardlaw

⑦ Dominic Edward Losavio

⑧ Russell Losavio

⑨ Bernard Rafel Yglesias

⑩ Carrol Joseph Babin

⑪ Ellis Wilbur Lawless

⑫ Alexie A. Guillot

⑬ Nolan Lonistelents Harris

⑭ Harry Aldreich Bozeman, Jr.

⑮ Frank Lafayette Hooper

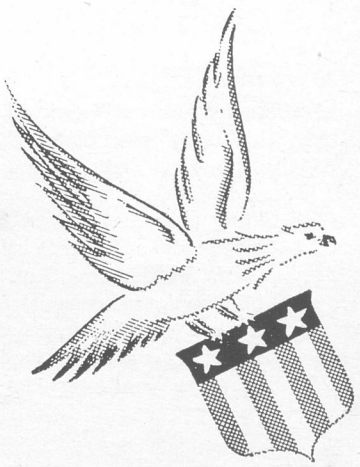
⑯ James Oliver Johnson

⑰ Cornelis Hofmeester, Jr.

⑱ Wickliffe Phillips

⑲ Abel Leonard, Jr.

⑳ Carey A. Martin



① THOMAS BOYD BROWN, Water Tender 3/C, USCG

Husband of Christine Grisson Brown, Baton Rouge, and father of Marilyn Nan Brown. He was born Nov. 23, 1919, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Samuel Brown. He was with Standard Oil Company of Louisiana prior to his induction on May 20, 1943, into the U. S. Coast Guard. From New Orleans he went to Panama City on patrol duty and served at Manhattan Beach, Brooklyn, New York, Curtis Bay Training Station, and Government Island, Alameda, Calif. On Jan. 17, 1945, he embarked for sea duty with the USS Joseph T. Dickman APA 13, going to the New Hebrides, Guadalcanal, Okinawa, Leyte, Manila, Saipan and Pearl Harbor. He was in combat in the Invasion of Okinawa and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Campaign Star and the Victory Ribbon. He served for eleven months of sea duty and was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on Dec. 19, 1946.

② AMBROSE FLOYD BROWN, Corporal, FA, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Ada Zachary Brown, 4529 Shelly Drive, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Samuel Brown. He was born March 8, 1925. Entering the Army of the United States May 25, 1943, at New Orleans, he served at Camp Barkeley, Texas, with the Medical Corps, going to Camp Bowie, Texas, for Field Artillery training and to Camp Shanks, N. Y. On Feb. 25, 1944, he embarked for Liverpool and served in England in combat maneuvers prior to going into action in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, and to Austria with the Army of Occupation. He fought in the Campaigns of Normandy, Southern France, the Ardennes, Central Europe and Germany, and has the European Theater Ribbon with five Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct and Victory Ribbons. He served overseas for twenty-one months and was honorably discharged Dec. 5, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

③ MELVIN CLARK BROWN, SSML 3/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Samuel Brown, Baton Rouge. He was born May 3, 1927, and attended North Highlands and Istrouma High Schools. He was with Louisiana Creamery, Inc., at Baton Rouge for ten months prior to his induction into the U. S. Naval Reserve on May 30, 1945, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., he was assigned to duty in the U. S. Naval Yard at Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, where he served throughout the remainder of his time in military service. He was continuing to serve with the U. S. Naval Reserve in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations.

④ DELBERT E. HUNT, SF 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Lucille B. Hunt, he was born April 13, 1927, and attended Zachary High School. Entering the U. S. Naval Reserve on March 29, 1945, at New Orleans, he was sent to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., and served at the U. S. Naval Training Station, Baltimore, Md., the US Naval Receiving Station, Norfolk, Va., and the US Naval Hospital at Key West, Fla. Going to Pearl Harbor on Sept. 11, 1945, he embarked for sea duty in the Pacific at Eniwetok, Saipan, Kwajalein Atoll, returning to Saipan and Pearl Harbor. He served in Panama en route to Norfolk, returning to the States on March 14, 1946. Ship Fitter Third Class Hunt has the Victory Ribbon, the American Theater and Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbons, and was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on completion of his military service to his country.

⑤ WALTER HENRY NOBLE, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Noble of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Annie Wardlaw Noble, he was born July 18, 1914. He attended school at Livingston, Ala. Noble entered the Army June 18, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, La. He received training with the U. S. Army Engineers at Camp Kilmer, N. J. Later he was sent to Fort Lawton, Wash., where he received orders for his overseas assignment. Sergeant Noble departed Sept. 21, 1942, for the Pacific. He participated in the Aleutian Campaign and Battle of Attu. For this meritorious service Sergeant Noble was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with one battle star. He is also the holder of the American Theater, Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was discharged Sept. 24, 1945. He is the father of Patricia Noble.

⑥ JAMES LOUIS WARDLAW, MoMM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. L. M. Wardlaw and husband of Katie McKeithen Wardlaw of Baton Rouge, La., he was born May 15, 1924, and attended Baton Rouge High School. Prior to his services with the U. S. Navy Wardlaw was employed by Western Union. He entered the Navy Sept. 20, 1942, and was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif. He received further training at Des Moines, Iowa, and Grove City, Pa. He departed for overseas April 4, 1943. Wardlaw served in the European Theater, Asiatic-Pacific Theater and American Theater of Operations. After more than three years of faithful service to his country he was discharged Jan. 5, 1946.

⑦ DOMINIC EDWARD LOSAVIO, U. S. Army

He was born Oct. 29, 1927, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Losavio of Baton Rouge, La. He attended the Baton Rouge Grammar School and the Catholic High School. Dominic entered the armed forces on Jan. 29, 1945.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑧ RUSSELL LOSAVIO, T/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. and Mrs. Sam Losavio of Baton Rouge, La. He was born Jan. 6, 1917, and attended the Baton Rouge Grammar and Junior High Schools. Before entering the service, he was in the dry cleaning business. Russell entered the U. S. Army March 7, 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑨ BERNARD RAFEL YGLESIAS, Sergeant, Air Forces

Missing in action over the home islands of Japan on May 29, 1945. He was the husband of Mrs. Doris Marie Keen Yglesias, Baton Rouge, and father of Bernard Doris, Linda Dolores, Kenneth Wayne and Chris Randall Yglesias. The son of Mrs. Clara Booker, Sherwood Drive, Baton Rouge, he attended LSU and was an electrician by occupation. Entering the Army Air Forces May 17, 1944, at Alexandria, Sergeant Yglesias served at Camp Beauregard, Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, and Lowry Field, Denver, Colo. He received his gunner's wings and served as remote control turret gunner at the AAF Technical School, Lincoln Army Air Base, Neb. Assigned to a B-29 combat crew at Alamagordo AAB, N. M., he embarked after combat training for the Marianas, going to Guam March 21, 1945. This gallant air crewman completed twelve bombing missions over vital enemy installations over Koriyami, Tokyo, Kamasoki, Nittegakasa Airfield, Kanoya Airfield (Kyushu Province), Okote, Nagoya, the emperor's palace in Tokyo and Yokahama before he was reported missing in action on May 29, 1945.

⑩ CARROL JOSEPH BABIN, Torpedoman 2/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Joseph Babin, Baton Rouge. He was born Aug. 22, 1925, and attended Baton Rouge Junior High School. He was a mail carrier prior to his induction into the U. S. Naval Reserve on March 6, 1943, and received his recruit training at the U. S. Naval Training Station at Farragut, Idaho, departing in June, 1943, for the South Pacific area. He was in combat in the Invasion of Vella Lavella in the Treasury Islands, Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas, the Philippine Invasion, Borneo, and the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea. He has the American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with six Bronze Campaign Stars, and Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Campaign Stars. He was honorably discharged Feb. 9, 1946.

⑪ ELLIS WILBUR LAWLESS, S 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Carvin E. Lawless of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Nov. 24, 1925, and attended Istrouma High School. Entering the service Feb. 13, 1943, Lawless was assigned to the United States Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif. He departed June 13, 1943, for the Pacific and participated in the bitter fighting at Tarawa, Reconquest of the Marshalls, Battle of Saipan, Pelelieu, Philippines, Second Battle of the Philippine Sea and Okinawa. He

was awarded the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Commendation Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon and the Victory Medal. After more than two years of meritorious service to his country, Lawless was discharged Nov. 4, 1945.

⑫ ALEXIE A. GUILLOT, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Guillot and husband of June Smith Guillot, he was born Dec. 16, 1914, and attended Port Allen High School. Prior to his services with the U. S. Army he was employed by the Southern Bell Telephone Company. Alexie entered the U. S. Army Aug. 13, 1942, and received training at Yakima, Wash., Fort Sill, Okla., and Camp Howze, Texas. He departed July 2, 1944, for Europe and participated in the bitter fighting of Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. Sergeant Guillot was awarded the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Star. He was discharged Sept. 28, 1945. He is the father of Fred A. and Susan Claire Guillot.

⑬ NOLAN LONISTELENTS HARRIS, PFC, CMP, Army of U. S.

Husband of Mrs. Ella Louise Harris, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Lafayette Harris of Denham Springs. He was born July 9, 1916, and attended Seventh Ward High School. He was a floor finisher by occupation prior to his induction into the Army of the United States Dec. 28, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Camp McCain, Miss., Camp Pickett, Va., Camp Custer, Mich., where he received combat Military Police training, and Camp Shanks, N. Y., interior guard, traffic, and town patrol duty. On March 29, 1944, he embarked for Europe with the 66th Military Police Company and served in England, France and Germany, as an MP. He was in combat at St. James and Brest, France, and Frankfort, Germany, and served in traffic direction, enforcing laws and regulations, quelling outbreaks in territory under U. S. jurisdiction, and handling military prisoners and displaced persons. He has the European Theater of Operations Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon and World War II Victory Ribbon, and was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby on Nov. 11, 1945.

⑭ HARRY ALDREICH BOZEMAN, JR., Seaman First Class, U. S. Navy

Husband of Hazel Watts Bozeman and father of Harry Aldrich Bozeman III, Hazel Anne and Daryl Glenn Bozeman. He was born Jan. 12, 1920, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Aldrich Bozeman, and was in the plumbing and pipefitting business prior to his induction into the U. S. Naval Reserve on Aug. 24, 1944, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., and TADCEN, Shoemaker, Calif., he embarked Feb. 10, 1945, for the Philippine Islands with Commander Service for the Seventh U. S. Fleet. He served on Manus Island in the Admiralty Group and on Luzon in the Philippine Islands assigned to duty as a shipfitter. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and the Philippine Liberation Ribbons. He was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on Nov. 8, 1945.

⑮ FRANK LAFAYETTE HOOPER, Lt. Commander, U. S. Merchant Marines

Son of Mrs. Dozie M. Hooper of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Helene Gremuk Hooper, he was born Nov. 22, 1912. Hooper entered the service in October, 1943, at New York, N. Y. He served with the Merchant Marine in the Atlantic, Pacific and Mediterranean war zones. Hooper was captain of the SS Beecher Island for one year. He was cited for his meritorious work in helping to bring back to port the tanker John Worthington, which was torpedoed by a Nazi U-boat. He is the holder of the Atlantic War Zone Ribbon, Pacific War Zone Ribbon, Mediterranean-Middle East War Zone Ribbon and the Merchant Marine Combat Ribbon.

⑯ JAMES OLIVER JOHNSON, Master Sergeant, AUS

Husband of Virginia Williams Johnson, he was born May 30, 1918. On Jan. 15, 1941, he entered the Army and served with IV Corps Headquarters (G-1), Jacksonville, Fla., Camp Beauregard (Engineers' Section), and with Headquarters VIII Corps (G-1) at Camp Bowie, Texas, and went overseas Dec. 12, 1943, to serve with them at Stoupert-on-Severn, England, and in France. He also served in Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany and with Headquarters 99th Infantry Division (G-1) in Germany as chief clerk. He served in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the Bronze Star for meritorious service in France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Luxembourg and Belgium in support of combat operations, the Good Conduet Medal, American Defense Service Ribbon and European-African-Middle Eastern Ribbon.

⑰ CORNELIS HOFMEESTER, JR., Tec/4, CE, U. S. Army

Husband of Hilda Louise Hofmeester and father of Barry Conrad Hofmeester. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelis Hofmeester and attended Baton Rouge High School. He was assistant manager, Weill's Department Store, prior to entering the Corps of Engineers at New Orleans Aug. 30, 1943. From Camp Beauregard he went to Camp Abbott, Oregon, for basic engineer training, then to Camp Beale and Camp Stoneman, Calif., prior to embarking April 1, 1944, for Milne Bay, New Guinea. He served also at Oro, Hollandia, and Morotai in aviation gasoline supply, and at Lingayen Gulf, Bataan, Manila, and Otaru, Hokkaido, with the same branch. He fought in the Campaigns of New Guinea, the Dutch East Indies (Morotai), the Philippines (Lingayen Gulf Invasion), and the Occupation of Japan, and also has the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, Jan. 6, 1946.

⑱ WICKLIFFE PHILLIPS, Tec/5, U. S. Army

Husband of Alice Chaney Phillips, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bell Phillips. He was born Feb. 9, 1908, and was a farmer and livestock grower. He was also with Union Tank and Car Company and Standard Oil Company prior to entering Military Service April 1, 1941, at Baton Rouge. From Camp Beauregard he was assigned to general hospital duty at Camp Livingston and Camp Claiborne prior to going overseas Jan. 20, 1942, to the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations. He was assigned to duty in general hospital work in India. He has the Good Conduct Medal and Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with Bronze Campaign Star, and was honorably discharged on Oct. 2, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

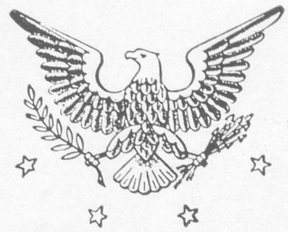
⑲ ABEL LEONARD, JR., MoMM 3/C, USCG

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Abel Leonard. He was born Nov. 10, 1922, and attended University High School. He was a clerk with Federal Barge Lines prior to his induction into the U. S. Coast Guard on Sept. 12, 1942, at New Orleans. He went from the US Coast Guard Station at New Orleans to Panama City, Fla., and Groton, Conn. On Jan. 15, 1944, he went to the European Theater where he served in Scotland, England, France, North Africa and Italy. Redeploying to the Pacific, he served at Guadalcanal, the New Hebrides, Ulithi, Saipan, the Philippines, Okinawa, Eniwetok and Pearl Harbor, assigned to duty as a landing barge engineer. He was in combat in the Normandy Invasion and the landings in Southern France and Okinawa. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on Oct. 26, 1945.

⑳ CAREY A. MARTIN, S/Sgt., Infantry, AUS

Husband of Bobbie Buratt Martin and father of Gerald Glen and Allen Louis Martin. He was born Feb. 13, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Martin and attended Oak Grove High School. He was with Baton Rouge Bus Company prior to his induction into the Army July 11, 1944. From the Infantry Replacement Training Center, Camp Fannin, Texas, he went to Hawaii Dec. 26, 1944, and served on Leyte, Mindoro and Okinawa with the 382nd Infantry Regiment, 96th Division. He was in combat on Leyte in the Philippines and Okinawa, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Victory Ribbon, the Purple Heart received for wounds May 16, 1945, on Okinawa, with Oak Leaf Cluster for wounds June 19 on Okinawa, and the Combat Infantry Badge. Discharged Jan. 13, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Johnny N. Christ

Corporal, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Christ, 352 South Eleventh Street, Baton Rouge. He was born in 1916 and attended Baton Rouge High School and Catholic High School, graduating on May 9, 1936. He was an employee of E. I. DuPont de Nemours Company in the Blending Department at Baton Rouge prior to his induction into the U. S. Army on Sept. 9, 1941, at Camp Shelby. He served at Camp Barkeley, Texas, Camp Wolters, Texas, Fort Devens and Camp Pickett, Va. He embarked for the European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre of Operations on May 13, 1943, serving in technical duties with the Infantry. He fought in the Campaigns of North Africa, the Invasion of Sicily, and the Invasion of Italy. He was wounded in action against the enemy in the bitter fighting in Italy on Dec. 14, 1943, and died of his wounds on Dec. 15, 1943. He was posthmously awarded the Purple Heart for the wounds which cost his life in fighting for his country on Jan. 25, 1944.

② Allen Andrew Christ

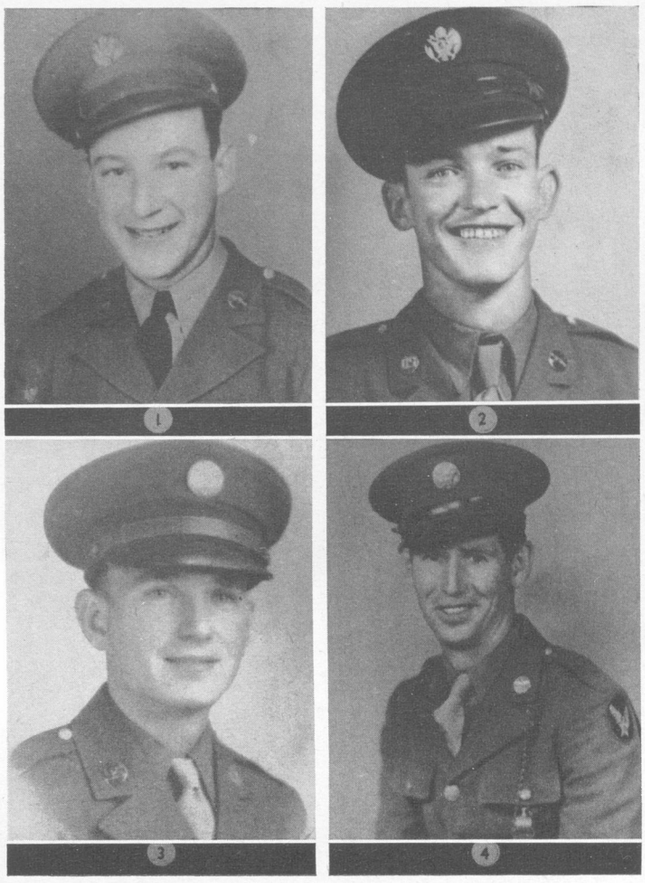
Tec/4, Infantry, AUS

Husband of Mary Evelyn Kidd Christ and father of Allen Andrew Christ, Jr. He was born July 31, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Christ, 342 Saint Maximillian Street, Baton Rouge, and attended Dufrocq School, Catholic High School, and Baton Rouge Senior High School. Entering the Army of the United States on Oct. 12, 1944, at New Orleans, he went to Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark., a a basic trainee and served at Camp Hood, Texas, with the Second Armored Division, 82nd Mechanized Cavalry, where he studied the 57-millimeter and 75-millimeter recoilless rifle and served as an instructor in that weapon. From Fort Ord, Calif., he embarked Jan. 25, 1945, for the Philippine Islands where he served on Luzon as a scout with the 38th Infantry Division throughout the Luzon Campaign, assigned to duty with Company E, 152nd Infantry Regiment. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre of Operations Ribbon with one bronze Campaign Star and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with star and the Combat Infantry Badge. Going to Japan with the Occupational Forces, he was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the Occupation Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon. He also has the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon and two Overseas Service Bars. He was honorably discharged at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on Aug. 2, 1946.

③ John Dewey Pennington, Jr.

Sergeant, Army Air Forces

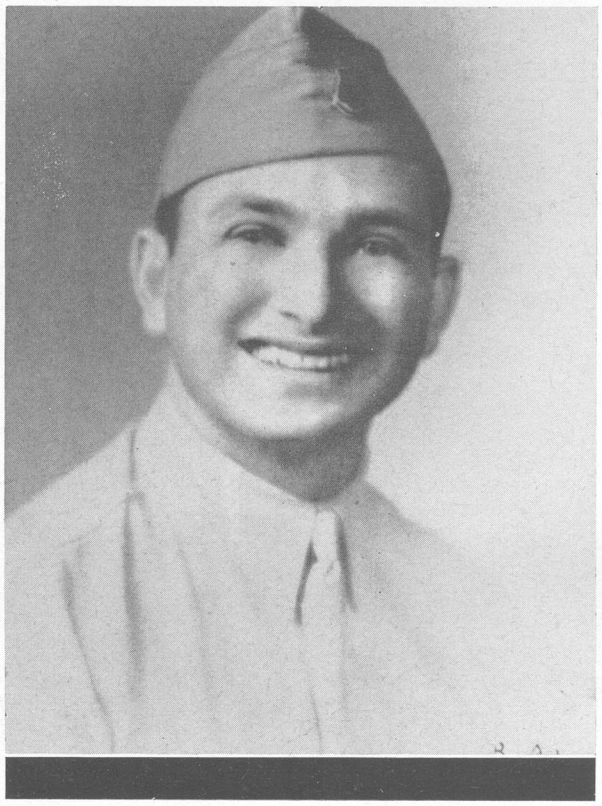
Son of Mrs. Lovey E. Pennington, 342 North Fourteenth Street, Baton Rouge. He was born March 16, 1921, and attended LSU. On Oct. 28, 1942, he was inducted at Fort McClellan, Ala., and entered the AAF with which he served as airplane engine mechanic at Jackson Army Air Base. He received overseas training at Mississippi Ordnance Plant. On Jan. 11, 1945, he embarked for the Philippine Islands, landing at Tacloban, Leyte, in the Philippine Islands, assigned to automotive repair work. With the 309th Bombardment Wing, Fifth Air Force, he went to Laoag Ilocos Norte Province, Luzon, Third Commando Group. He landed on Ie Shima, on Otaru, Hokkaido Island, Japan, where he was stationed at Chitose Air Base, then went to Honshu. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Southern Philippines and Luzon, and has the American Theatre Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Feb. 4, 1946.

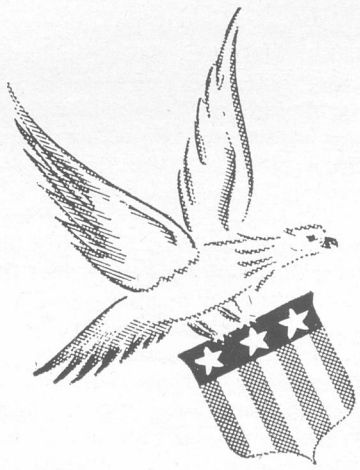


④ Francis Joseph Rowe

Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Edward J. Rowe of Fulton, N. Y., and husband of Thelma Sommers Rowe of Baton Rouge, La., he was born April 11, 1914, and attended Fulton High School. Prior to his services with the Army Air Forces Rowe was a salesman. He entered the Air Force April 1, 1942, at Fulton, N. Y., and was assigned to Brownsville Army Air Field and Blytheville Army Air Field. Corporal Rowe was a member of President Truman's Military escort while he attended the State Fair at Caruthersville, Mo. He is the holder of the American Theatre Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. Rowe was discharged Nov. 29, 1945.





Maurice Andrew Salemi

PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Catherine Salemi and the late Frank Salemi, he was born November 16, 1917, and attended Beauregard School. Entering the service September 9, 1941, he received training at Camp Shelby, Miss., Camp Wolters, Texas, and Camp Bowie, Texas. Salemi departed February, 1943, for North Africa, where he served until September, 1943. He participated in the Salerno Beachhead landing on September 9, and was killed while on a scout mission. This gallant boy gave his life for his country while serving with the 142nd Infantry, 36th Division.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

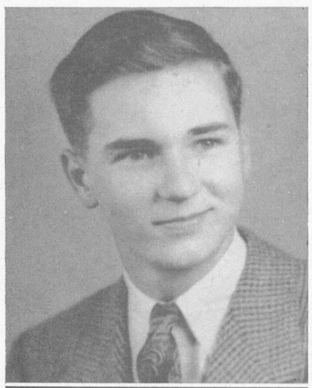
① Richard D. Briggs

Captain, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben F. Briggs, he was born Nov. 21, 1921, and attended Hickman High School, Hickman, Ky., and Texas College of Arts and Industries, Kingsville, Texas. Entering the service March 16, 1943, Briggs was assigned to Army Meteorological School, Grand Rapids, Mich. He was transferred to Chanute Field, Ill. Captain Briggs served as weather officer at Key Field, Meridian, Miss. He departed Aug. 22, 1945, for overseas and served on Saipan, Oahu, T. H., Guam and Iwo Jima. Captain Briggs was scheduled for discharge Oct. 2, 1946.



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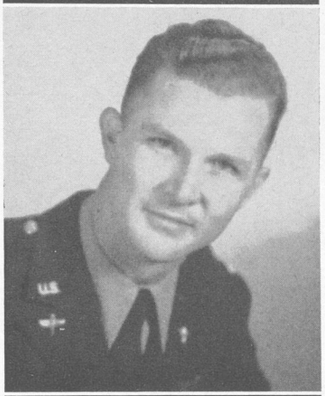


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② Ben Burrus Briggs

S 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamine F. Briggs, he was born Nov. 10, 1926, and attended Hickman and Baton Rouge High Schools. Entering the service Oct. 25, 1944, Briggs was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for training. He was later sent to Norman, Okla., for Aviation Ordnance training. He departed March 9, 1946, for Hawaii. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Ribbon, American Theatre Ribbon and Victory Medal.



3



4

③ Earl Vane Wilkinson, Jr.

Lieutenant, U. S. Army Air Force

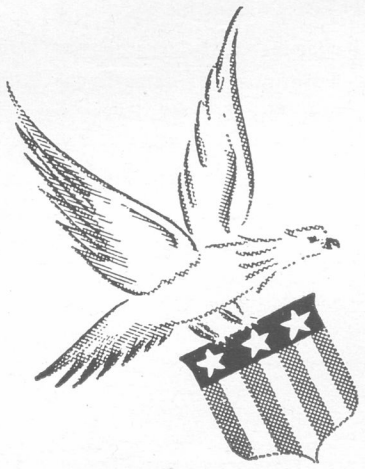
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Vane Wilkinson of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Margaret Wichmann Wilkinson of Closter, N. J., he was born May 23, 1923. Wilkinson attended Baton Rouge High School, Louisiana State University, Marion Military Institute at Marion, Ala., and United States Military Academy, West Point, N. Y. He entered West Point July 15, 1941. Later he was stationed at air fields at Columbus, Ohio, Sebring, Fla., and Orlando, Fla. In April, 1946, Lieutenant Wilkinson was sent to Europe where he served as assistant communication officer, American Air Force Headquarters, for Continental Europe at Weisbaden, Germany. Lieutenant Wilkinson is still serving with the Army Air Force.

④ Reymond Wallace Wilkinson

Seaman 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Wilkinson of Baton Rouge, La., he was born June 10, 1927, and attended Baton Rouge High School, Louisiana State University and Pacific University, Pearl Harbor, T. H. Wilkinson entered the service March 23, 1945, and was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for training. Later he was sent to Camp Elliott, Calif., and New Orleans, La. Wilkinson departed Sept. 12, 1945, for Pearl Harbor where he served in the staging center. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre of Operations Ribbon, American Theatre Ribbon and the Victory Medal. He was discharged May 2, 1946.





Warren Russell Lobdell

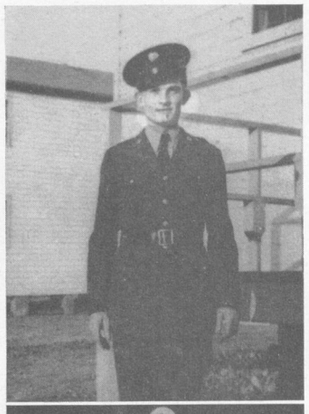
Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Lobdell of Baton Rouge, La., he was born December 6, 1920, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. Prior to entering the Army Air Force he was employed by Foster Wheeler Corporation. Lobdell entered the service December 2, 1942, and received training at San Antonio, Texas, Stamford, Texas, Enid, Okla., and received his wings at Foster, Texas. Lieutenant Lobdell departed March 31, 1944 as a fighter pilot on a P-47 and flew a number of missions over France and Germany doing escort fighter duty before he was reported missing in action over France June 27, 1944. The Purple Heart was posthumously awarded his parents in November, 1944.

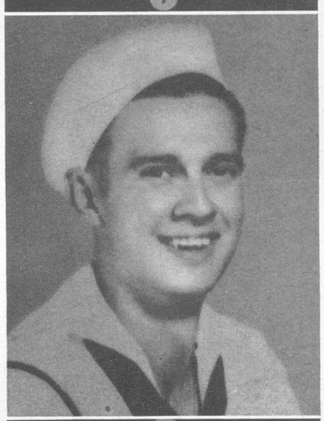
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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4

① Teddy William Airhart

Ensign, Naval Air Corps

Husband of Anna Nell Airhart, 2944 Jackson Avenue, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Teddy W. Airhart. He was born July 28, 1924, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the United States Naval Air Corps on December 8, 1942, at New Orleans, he served as a Naval aviator at Liberty, Mo.; Topeka, Kan.; Iowa City, Iowa, and Ottumwa, Iowa. He was also assigned to duty at the Naval Air Stations at Corpus Christi, Texas; Pensacola, Fla.; Jacksonville, Fla.; Hutchinson, Kan., and Miami, Fla. He served as a Naval aviator throughout the period of service with the United States Naval Reserve (aviation), and was granted his honorable release from active service December 2, 1945, at New Orleans, being placed on inactive duty.

② Elton W. Roberts

M/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Roberts of Pine Grove, La., he was born June 2, 1914, and attended Pine Grove High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the service July 8, 1941, Roberts was assigned to Fort Monmouth, N. J., for Signal Corps School. Later he was sent to Camp Crowder, Mo., and Camp Barkley, Texas. He served at Camp Murphy, Fla., as construction line foreman. Sergeant Roberts departed November 3, 1944, for England and participated in the bitter fighting of the Rhineland and Central Europe. He was awarded the European Theater of Operations Medal, American Defense Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. After more than four years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged December 11, 1945.

③ Wilbur Douglas Fugler, Jr.

RT 3/C, U. S. Naval Reserve

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Douglas Fugler, 2001 Cherokee Avenue, Baton Rouge. He was born June 23, 1921, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University (1938-1942). Entering the United States Naval Reserve May 9, 1944, he was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Ill., the USS Manley (Pre-Radio School), Oklahoma A. & M. College at Stillwater (Primary Radio), and Treasure Island, Calif. (Advanced Radio), embarking from Camp Shoemaker September 5, 1945, for Samar Island in the Philippines. He was assigned to duty on Samar as a surveyor and civil engineer. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans May 21, 1946.

④ Chester Joseph Clouatre

AMM 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Livingston Joseph Clouatre of Baton Rouge, La. He was born October 22, 1919, and attended the Istrouma High School, graduating in 1938. Before entering the Armed Forces, he was employed at the Air Base in Alameda, Calif. Chester entered the U. S. Navy September 15, 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① George Joseph Armoney

② Joseph William Annison, Jr.

③ Karl Leche, Jr.

④ Franklin Goodwin Pruyn, Jr.

⑤ John Bruce Smith

⑥ John V. Budukiewiez

⑦ Russell Ambrose Trosclair

⑧ R. Owen Barnett

⑨ Henry R. Pearson

⑩ Eugene Vester Cothern

⑪ Clifford Ernest Slaughter

⑫ James Alonzo Jacocks III

⑬ Richard O'Leary Auter, Jr.

⑭ John William Bates Collins, Jr.

⑮ Elton Pierre Hebert

⑯ Louis Joseph Boudreaux

⑰ George William Herrington

⑱ Benjamin W. Wax

⑲ Gerald Grey Phares

⑳ Joseph D. Lassere



① **GEORGE JOSEPH ARMONEY, U. S. Army**

Son of Mr. Theophile Armoney and Antoinette Armoney of Baton Rouge, La. He was born April 5, 1924, and is a graduate of the Istrouma High School. He also attended the Baton Rouge Junior High School. George is the husband of Martha Ann Armoney. He entered the U. S. Army July 1, 1943.

(N. M. I. A.)

② **JOSEPH WILLIAM ANNISON, JR., Seaman First Class, U. S. Navy**

Husband of Clara Christine Lipscomb Annison of Zachary and son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph William Annison, Route 1, Zachary. He was born November 27, 1927, and attended Zachary High School and Baton Rouge High School. He was inducted into the United States Naval Reserve on July 3, 1945, at Baton Rouge and went to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Cal., then was assigned to duty with the USS Baltimore CA 68. On December 2, 1945, Seaman First Class Annison embarked for the Pacific area where he served with the United States Naval Reserve in the Home Islands of Japan. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, World War II Victory Ribbon, the Fifth Fleet Service Ribbon, the Occupation of Japan Ribbon, and a Citation of Commendation. He was honorably discharged July 22, 1946, at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans.

③ **KARL LECHE, JR., 1st Lieut., ATC**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Leche, 2277 Klienert Avenue, Baton Rouge. He attended Spring Hill College, Mobile, Ala., and Louisiana State University, where he was a student at the time of entering Military Service in the Army Air Forces Feb. 1, 1942, at Santa Ana, Calif. He served at Camp Luna, Las Vegas, N. M., as personnel officer in Air Intelligence, and at Hamilton Field, Calif., as commanding officer of the Air Transport Command Base Squadron Air Intelligence. Following the cessation of hostilities Lieutenant Leche was still in service with the Air Transport Command.

④ **FRANKLIN GOODWIN PRUYN, JR., Lt. Col., U. S. Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Pruyn, Sr., of Baton Rouge, La. He was born Feb. 4, 1912, and is a graduate of the Baton Rouge High School. He attended Louisiana State University and prior to entering the armed forces, was in the real estate business. Franklin entered the U. S. Army in July, 1940. He is the father of Stephen Charles and Patricia Pruyn.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑤ **JOHN BRUCE SMITH, Sergeant, Air Forces**

Husband of Mrs. Ivy Rose Smith, Route 3, Baton Rouge, and son of Mrs. A. St. Clair Smith. He has a son, James Ray Smith. Sergeant Smith was born June 12, 1923, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. On Feb. 23, 1944, he entered the Army Air Forces at Camp Beauregard and attended Army Air Forces Technical Training Schools at Lowry Field, Denver, Colo., Sheppard Field, Texas, and Great Bend Army Air Base, Kan., staging area. From Fort Lawton, Seattle, Wash., port of embarkation, on June 27, 1945, he embarked for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations where he served on Okinawa, assigned to duty at Pine Tree Army Air Base. He was in combat on Okinawa in the Ryukyus Campaigns. Returning to the States he received his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., May 21, 1946.

⑥ **JOHN V. BUDUKIEWIEZ, 1st Lieut., Air Forces**

Husband of Evelyn O. Budukiewiez, 2929 Brady Avenue, Baton Rouge, and father of Karen Jean Budukiewiez. He was born March 11, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Budukiewiez, and attended Brighton High School and Northeastern University, Boston, Mass. On March 22, 1942, he entered the Army Air Forces and received pilot training at Maxwell Field, Ala., Shaw Field, S. C., and Lakeland, Fla. He did dive bombing at Meridian, Miss., and Baton Rouge, and light bombardment at Oklahoma City, Okla., going to Kansas City and St. Joseph, Mo., as ferry pilot. On October 15, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater and served as a pilot, stationed at Foggia, Italy, and Vesuvius, Italy. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno and the air offensive over Europe. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three bronze Campaign Stars and the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster. He was given an honorable discharge at Barksdale Field.

⑦ **RUSSELL AMBROSE TROSCLAIR Tec/5, United States Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Emile Francis Trosclair, 2745 Pine Street, Baton Rouge. He attended Istrouma High School and was a machinist prior to entering the Cavalry Oct. 3, 1941, at Camp Livingston. He went to Fort Riley, Kan., for Cavalry training and to Fort Jackson, S. C., with the mechanized Cavalry. He embarked for the European Theater Sept. 26, 1942, and served in the campaigns of Rome-Arno in Italy, the Invasion of Southern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe, also operating a light truck with the Cavalry. He was wounded in action Aug. 16, 1944, and received the Purple Heart for military merit. He also has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, and the Bronze Indian Arrowhead for an invasion over the beaches in Southern France. He was granted his honorable discharge Sept. 28, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑧ **R. OWEN BARNETT, Platoon Sgt., USMC**

Husband of Shirley Rose Barnett, 817 Main Street, Natchez, Miss., and son of Mr. and Mrs. John Barnett, Route 2, Jefferson Highway, Baton Rouge. He was born Oct. 16, 1920, and attended University High School and Louisiana State University on his release from duty. Entering the United States Marine Corps at New Orleans on March 1, 1942, he went to the Marine Corps Base at San Diego and to Camp J. H. Pendleton at Oceanside, Calif., then to Corpus Christi, Texas, for further military training. Going to the Pacific May 9, 1942, to serve with the famed Carlson's Raiders, he fought at Makin Island, Guadalcanal and Bougainville, serving also in the Occupation of Japan during his two tours of duty in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations from Guadalcanal to Japan (May 9, 1942, to February 15, 1944, and September 3, 1944, to December 25, 1945).

⑨ **HENRY R. PEARSON, Aviation Cadet, AAF**

Husband of Ruth Pearson, Greenwell Springs, and son of Charles Warren Pearson, Lorenzo, Texas. He was born Nov. 15, 1919, and attended Texas schools, being a defense plant worker at Inglewood prior to his induction at Los Angeles on March 4, 1942, into the Army Air Forces. He served at Fort MacArthur, Calif., Camp Barkeley, Texas, and Harding Field, Baton Rouge, assigned to duty as a veterinary technician, and to Keesler Field, Miss., Altus Army Air Field, Okla., and the University of Florida for air crew training. He served as an aviation cadet at Stuttgart Army Air Base, Ark., Maxwell Field, Ala., Lodwick School of Aeronautics at Lakeland, Fla., Spence Field, Ga., Perrin Field, Texas and March Field, Calif., and was honorably discharged Dec. 7, 1945.

⑩ **EUGENE VESTER COTHERN, PFC, Army of the U. S.**

Husband of Alva Mae Cothern, 2005 Mulberry Street, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Cothern, 545 North Tenth Street. He was born June 13, 1922, and attended Catholic High School prior to entering the United States Marine Corps, then entering the Army of the United States on Dec. 26, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Camp Hood, Texas, Camp Phillips, Kan., and Camp McCoy, Wis., and embarked for the European Theater on August 11, 1944, to serve in England, France, Luxembourg, Germany and Czechoslovakia, as company clerk and as an instrument man with a tank destroyer unit in the campaigns of the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe and served with Military Police and Ordnance in the Army of Occupation. He has the American and European Theater Ribbons with three bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct and Victory Medals, and the Purple Heart awarded for wounds received at Chenincourt, France, Nov. 15, 1944. He was honorably discharged Dec. 31, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑪ **CLIFFORD ERNEST SLAUGHTER, Private, U. S. Army**

Husband of Lillie Mae Buhler Slaughter of Greenwell Springs and father of Carolyn June and Marilyn Kay Slaughter. He is the son

of Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Miller Slaughter, 2670 Eaton Street, Baton Rouge, and was born October 2, 1919. He attended Central High School and was a boilermaker prior to entering the Army of the United States March 14, 1941, at Baton Rouge. He served at Camp Hulen, Texas, and was on Anti-Aircraft duty as part of the West Coast Defense, Coast Artillery Corps, at San Diego, Cal. He was on cadre duty at Camp Howze, Texas, Camp Maxey, Texas, and Fort Ord, Calif., for the remainder of his period of service with the CAC. He has the Good Conduct and American Theater Medals. He was honorably discharged under the point system of demobilization at Fort Ord (Calif.) Separation Center October 12, 1945.

⑫ **JAMES ALONZO JACOCKS III,**
Seaman First Class, USNR

Son of Mrs. J. A. Jacocks of Zachary. He was born July 13, 1927, and is a graduate of Zachary High School. Entering the United States Navy at New Orleans on May 31, 1945, he went to the United States Naval Training Center at San Diego, Calif. He embarked for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations on September 8, 1945, going to Guam in the Marianas Islands Group. He was assigned to duty with the U. S. Naval Supply Depot on Guam, serving in this capacity throughout his period of overseas duty. Returning to the States he was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans August 29, 1946.

⑬ **RICHARD O'LEARY AUTER, JR.,**
Seaman 1/C, U. S. Coast Guard

Husband of Lucille Davis Auter, 4922 Capitol Heights Avenue, Baton Rouge, and father of Beverly June and Brenda Gayle Auter. He was born April 29, 1922, the son of Richard O. and Pearl C. Auter, and attended Bernard Terrace School, Baton Rouge High School, and Louisiana State University. Entering the United States Coast Guard Reserve on September 3, 1942, at New Orleans, he served with the Coast Guard at New Orleans, at Port Arthur, Texas, at Orange, Texas, and at Beaumont, Texas. Seaman First Class Auter went to the Pacific area in July, 1945, and served at Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on November 5, 1945.

⑭ **JOHN WILLIAM BATES COLLINS, JR.,**
Tec/3, Signal Corps, AUS

Husband of Hazel Buratt Collins and father of Gertie Dianne Collins. He was born October 12, 1920, and is the son of John W. B. Collins and Mamie Nugent Collins. Employed as a serviceman for office machines he entered the Army on August 24, 1944. Assigned to duty with the Signal Corps, he went to Camp Crowder, Mo., as a lineman and embarked May 5, 1945, for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater where he served in shore fire control in the Southern Philippines and the Northern Philippines. He served in Korea with Allied Military Government. In combat in the Campaigns of the Southern Philippines and Luzon, he has the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, Army of Occupation Ribbon (Japan), Victory Ribbon, and two Overseas Service Bars. Discharged July 29, 1946.

⑮ **ELTON PIERRE HEBERT, PFC, Infantry, AUS**

Husband of Earnestine Ulmer Hebert of Brusly and son of Alex and Celia Bourg Hebert of Brusly. Born October 24, 1917, he attended Brusly High School and was with the Civilian Conservation Corps prior to his induction into the Army of the United States on October 2, 1940, at Jackson, Miss. Private First Class Hebert served at Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Jackson, S. C., then went to Iceland and the European Theater, embarking August 7, 1943. He served in Iceland, England, France, Belgium and Germany and was in combat in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes, and Central Europe. He has the American Defense Service Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with four bronze Campaign Stars. He was honorably discharged September 28, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑯ **LOUIS JOSEPH BOUDREAUX, Seaman 1/C, USCG**

Husband of Myrtis H. Boudreaux of Brusly and son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Boudreaux of Brusly. He was born September 21, 1919, and attended Port Allen and Brusly High Schools. He was employed as a street car conductor in New Orleans prior to his induction into the United States Coast Guard October 20, 1942. He served at Camp Harahan, La., at the Fort Lauderdale Repair Yard, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and with the USS Moseley DE 321, with which he served on convoy duty for 18 months between the United States East Coast and ports in North Africa, Casablanca, Gibraltar and small ports in Tunisia. He was also assigned to duty on anti-submarine patrols in the North Atlantic between Newfoundland and Greenland, serving with the same ship. His ship underwent many enemy attacks in the submarine warfare in the Atlantic and Mediterranean areas and suffered air attacks in the Mediterranean, saving many lives. He has the American Theater and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbons and was honorably discharged September 29, 1945, at New Orleans.

⑰ **GEORGE WILLIAM HERRINGTON, T/5, U. S. Army**

Son of Mrs. Nona Belle Herrington of Baywood, La., and husband of Agnes Crotwell Herrington of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Oct. 14, 1915. Herrington attended Pride High School. Entering the service March 31, 1944, at Camp Beauregard, La., he was assigned to Camp Swift, Texas, for training, later being sent to Camp Murphy, Fla. He departed Oct., 1944, for overseas and participated in the bitter fighting of the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. Herrington is the holder of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal, a Unit Citation Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. He was discharged January 1, 1946.

⑱ **BENJAMIN W. WAX, Captain, AUS**

Husband of Polly Teasley Wax of Toccoa, Ga., and son of Mrs. Maud C. Wax, 1028 South Eighteenth Street, Baton Rouge. He attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University and was athletic coach at Baton Rouge High School prior to entering active service November 24, 1940, at New Iberia. He trained inductees at Camp Blanding, Fla., and went to Fort Benning, Ga., Infantry School and Parachute School, and received further parachute training at Fort Bragg, N. C., and Camp Toccoa, Ga., and received final combat training at Camp Mackall, N. C. On January 14, 1943, he embarked for England. He served in France as Intelligence officer, 501st Parachute Regiment, in the famed 101st Airborne Division, and in France and Germany as liaison officer in the First Allied Airborne Army. He was in combat in the Airborne Invasion of Europe, and has the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action against the enemy, the Presidential Unit Citation Badge, and Combat Infantry Medal. He was honorably discharged at Fort McPherson, Ga., in September, 1945.

⑲ **GERALD GREY PHARES, MM 1/C, USNCB**

Husband of Lydia Young Glynn of Baker and father of Gerald Grey Phares, Jr. He was born September 23, 1911, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gerald Phares, and attended Baker High School. He was with E. I. DuPont de Nemours prior to his induction in the U. S. Naval Construction Battalions August 31, 1943, at New Orleans. He served at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., Camp Endicott, Davisville, R. I., and Camp Holliday, Gulfport, Miss., embarking from Camp Rousseau, Calif., on April 22, 1944, for Hawaii. He served with the Seabees on Tinian and Guam in the Marianas Islands. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on November 24, 1945.

⑳ **JOSEPH D. LASSERE, Corporal, Air Forces**

Husband of Mary Jane Lassere of Grandfield, Okla., and son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Lassere of Garyville. He was born January 5, 1922, and attended Garyville and Leon Godchaux High Schools, Reserve, and National Trades School at New Orleans. Entering the Army Air Forces August 24, 1946, at New Orleans, he served at Majors Army Air Field, Greenville, Texas, Frederick AAF, Okla., Keesler Field, Miss., attending aircraft mechanics school and receiving instruction as an aerial engineer. He was assigned to duty at Kirtland Field, Albuquerque, N. M., attended B-29 School and worked as crew chief, and served at LaJunta AAF, Colo., shipping out P-47 airplanes, and Lowry Field, Denver, Colo. He was honorably discharged at Fort Logan, Colo., on February 7, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Louis Jean Mire

Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Nestor Louis Mire of Duplessis, La., and husband of Evelyn Boyce Mire of Baton Rouge, La., he was born July 16, 1920 and attended Dutchtown High School. Entering the Army Air Force August 13, 1943, at Houston, Texas, Mire was sent to March Field, Calif., for basic training and maintenance depot work. He departed December 5, 1943, for England where he served with the Main Supply and Repair Depot of the Eighth Air Force. His job was repairing battle damaged aircraft. After returning to the States, Corporal Mire was assigned to Kingman Army Air Base, Kingman, Ariz., and Victorville Army Air Base, Victorville, Calif. He is the holder of the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon and the Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal. After more than two years of faithful service to his country Corporal Mire was discharged November 30, 1945, at San Bernardino, Calif.



② George Louis Bailey

Tec/4, C of E, AUS

Husband of Eleanor Mae Bailey of Greenwell Springs and son of John Collins Bailey, Greenwell Springs. He attended Central High School and LSU, and was with Standard Oil Company prior to his induction in the Army of the United States on November 16, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. Sergeant Bailey served with the Corps of Engineers at Fort Riley, Kan., and Camp Claiborne. On August 22, 1943, he departed for North Africa, where he spent five months, and Italy, where he spent twenty-two months, assigned to duty supply the Army Air Forces and the Fifth U. S. Army with gas and oil by means of pipeline systems. He also served in supplying the British Eighth Army. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Rome-Arno, the North Apennines, and the Po Valley. His company was presented the Meritorious Service Plaque for outstanding performance of duty. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars and the Good Conduct and World War II Victory Ribbons. He was granted his honorable discharge on December 4, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

③ Edward Clark Weaver, Jr.

PFC, U. S. Army

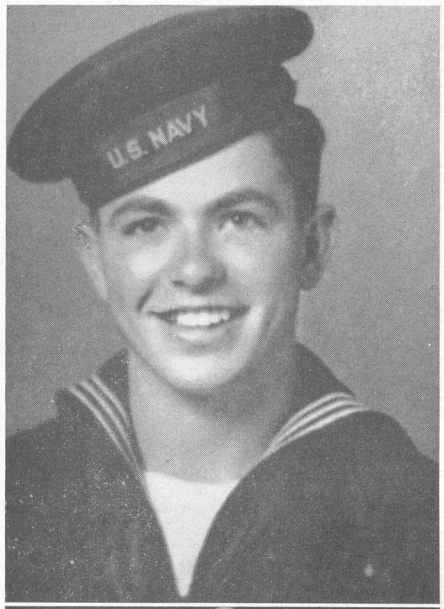
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Clark Weaver of Baton Rouge, La., he was born February 5, 1925. After graduating from Baton Rouge High School he attended Louisiana State University. Entering the service July 27, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, La., Weaver was later assigned to Sheppard Field, Texas, for training. He received training in aviation at San Antonio, Texas, and Sioux Falls, S. D. Weaver attended gunnery school at Yuma Army Air Field, Yuma, Ariz. He was then sent to Bolling Field, Washington, D. C., as a radio operator on aircraft. He was honorably discharged March 15, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

④ George Michael Abraham

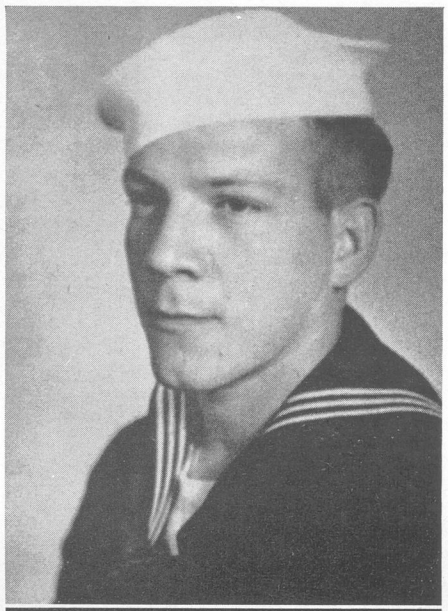
First Lieutenant, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Abraham, 2034 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge. He was born August 14, 1915, and was graduated from Baton Rouge High School (1935) and LSU (1940). Prominent in football and golf circles, he was sports writer for the Morning Advocate prior to entering the Army January 9, 1941, where he served until going to the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga., as an officer candidate, receiving his commission June 12, 1942. With the 92nd Infantry Division at Camp Robinson, Ark., and Fort Huachuca, Ariz., he embarked from Fort Meade, Md., for Southern France and fought through the Vosges Mountains with the 36th (Texas) Division, Seventh Army. He lost his life in combat near the Siegfried Line December 6, 1944. This gallant infantry officer was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for the wounds received on November 5, 1944, which cost him his life. He also had the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with Bronze Star, American Theater Ribbon, Victory Ribbon and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

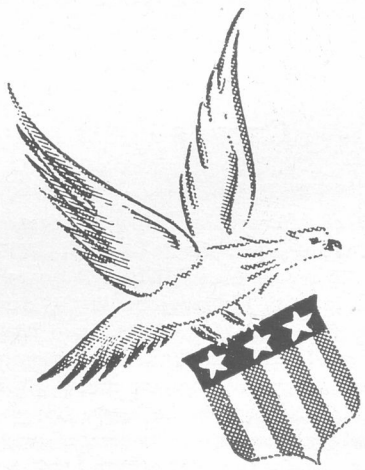
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



1



2



① Clarence Mitchell Thibodeaux, Jr.

S 1/C, U. S. Navy

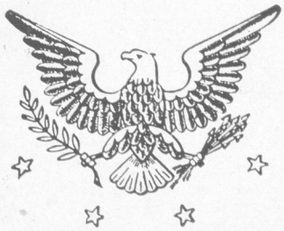
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Mitchell Thibodeaux of Baton Rouge, La., he was born April 21, 1927, and attended a Catholic High School. Entering the service June 2, 1944, Clarence received his boot training at San Diego, Calif. He departed August 24, 1944, for overseas, serving on Manus Island, Hollandia, New Guinea, Owi Island, Mortia Island, Philippine Islands and Mindoro. He was awarded the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with 1 Star and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon and Victory Ribbon. After more than two years of meritorious service for his country, he was discharged May 27, 1946.

② James Girod Roth, Jr.

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. J. G. Roth of Baton Rouge, La., he was born February 4, 1922, and attended North Highlands Junior High School, Istrouma High School and Spencer Business College of Baton Rouge. Entering the service December 30, 1942, at New Orleans, La., James was assigned to the Naval Flight Preparatory School at Natchitoches, La., later being sent to Preflight School at Athens, Ga. He was also stationed at Cambridge, Md., and Jacksonville, Fla. He departed September 1, 1945, for Pearl Harbor and served on the USS Boxer. After three years of faithful service to his country he was honorably discharged January 5, 1946, at New Orleans, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Launcelot T. "Pete" Lipsey

② Amos L. Rabb

③ Archie M. Rabb, Jr.

④ Carolyn LaCaze Stewart

⑤ Claude Young Woolfolk

⑥ Richard Gordon Woolfolk, Jr.

⑦ Warren Henry Woolfolk

⑧ Clarence O. Collignon

⑨ Donald M. Hardy

⑩ Jay W. Stevens

⑪ William Edward Law

⑫ Warren Franklin Law

⑬ Willard Hill

⑭ Samuel Joseph Marino

⑮ Michael Marino

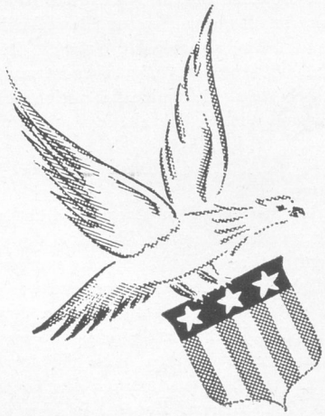
⑯ Joseph Marino

⑰ Emmit Eugene Henderson

⑱ William Robert Henderson

⑲ Wilber A. Hill

⑳ Charles D. Henderson





① LAUNCELOT T. "PETE" LIPSEY, Ph. M 1/C, Waves

Daughter of Mrs. Anna Dale Humble and L. T. Lipsey of Baton Rouge, La. She was born Feb. 24, 1924, and attended the Baton Rouge Junior High School and the Baton Rouge High School. Graduating from Louisiana State University, she went to the Comptometer School in New Orleans, La. Prior to entering the armed forces, she worked for the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works. Launcelot entered the Waves in July, 1944.

(N. M. I. A.)

② AMOS L. RABB, Corporal, Air Forces

He was born June 16, 1923, and attended Bernard Terrace and Baton Rouge High Schools and Anderson Aircraft Mechanic School. Entering the AAF Jan. 12, 1943, he went to Sheppard Field, Texas, for basic and Atlantic City, N. J., for overseas staging. He embarked July 26, 1943, for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater where he served at Port Moresby and Nadgab, New Guinea, Biak, Dutch East Indies, Leyte and Clark Field, Luzon, Philippines, and Okinawa, assigned to duty as Aerial Engineer. He was in combat in New Guinea, the Western Pacific, the Bismarck Archipelago, the Southern Philippines, Luzon, and the Ryukyus and has the Good Conduct Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, and stars for six major campaigns. Discharged Oct. 22, 1945.

③ ARCHIE M. RABB, JR., Sergeant, U. S. Army

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Archie M. Rabb, he was born August 8, 1918. He was an oilfield worker and gauger prior to entering the Army July 8, 1941. He served at Camp Lee, Va., Camp Livingston, and Camp Shelby, going to Cadet School, Oklahoma A. and M. From Keesler Field, Miss. (air cadet), he went to Camp Luis Obispo and Camp Cooke, Cal., with the Quartermaster Corps. Embarking in June, 1942, for the British West Indies, he served also in Puerto Rico and Antigues, B. W. I., with Infantry and Military Police. In February, 1945, he went to Africa, and served in France, Belgium, Germany, and Austria with the QMC. In August he was redeployed to the Philippines (QMC). He fought with the famed 86th (Blackhawk) Division in the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the Bronze Star, the Good Conduct and Victory Ribbons, American Defense and American Theater Ribbons, Asiatic-Pacific and European Theater Ribbons with two Campaign Stars.

④ CAROLYN LaCAZE STEWART, Yeoman 3/C, U. S. Navy Waves

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. LaCaze of Baton Rouge, La., and wife of James E. Stewart of Pensacola, Fla., she was born May 12, 1922, and attended El Dorado High School and Baton Rouge Business College. Mrs. Stewart entered the services August 24, 1944, and received training at Hunter College, New York, and Stillwater, Okla. She was then assigned to Corry Field, Fla., where she served as Yeoman for Officer in charge of the Waves. She was honorably discharged at Pensacola, Fla., Oct. 12, 1945.

⑤ CLAUDE YOUNG WOOLFOLK, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Richard Gordon and Lilley Young Woolfolk of Zachary. He was born Dec. 12, 1927, and attended Zachary High School, entering the United States Navy Feb. 15, 1945, at New Orleans. He served at the Naval Training Station in San Diego, Cal., and the U. S. Naval Base, Naval Air Depot, Hawthorne, Nev. He has the World War II Victory Ribbon and the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and was granted his honorable discharge at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans, on July 30, 1946.

⑥ RICHARD GORDON WOOLFOLK, JR., Corporal, Infantry, Army of U. S.

Son of Richard Gordon and Lilley Young Woolfolk of Zachary. He was born June 15, 1924, and attended Zachary and Baton Rouge Junior and Senior High Schools. He entered the Army June 20, 1942, and served at Camp Livingston and Camp Beauregard, Keesler Field, Miss., Sheppard Field, Texas, Bowman Field, Ky., Sedalia Army Air Base, Mo., and Fort Benning, Ga. He embarked for Africa May 12, 1943, and served in South and North Africa, Sicily, Italy, England, France, Holland, and Germany as crew chief and co-pilot (glider) and automatic rifleman (infantry). He fought in the Campaigns of Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Normandy, the Rhineland, and Central Europe and has the Presidential Citation with Cluster, Purple Heart with Cluster, Combat Infantry and German Occupation Badges, and stood review for President Roosevelt in Sicily (314th Troop Carrier Command).

⑦ WARREN HENRY WOOLFOLK, PFC, TD, FA, Army

Son of Richard Gordon Woolfolk and Lilley Young Woolfolk of Zachary. He was born Jan. 4, 1926, and attended Zachary High School. Entering the Army June 22, 1944, at Camp Beauregard, he served at Camp Hood, Texas (Tank Destroyers), and Fort Jackson, S. C. (Field Artillery). He embarked for the European Theater on Feb. 11, 1945, and served in France and Germany as a reconnaissance driver. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the European Theater Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged June 13, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

⑧ CLARENCE O. COLLIGNON, Sergeant, Infantry, AUS

Was born July 22, 1923, and employed as a shipping clerk for the Ice Service Company, Inc., Evansville, Ind., prior to entering the Army there on March 6, 1943. Sergeant Collignon served with the 655th Tank Destroyer Battalion at Camp Bowie and Camp Hood, Texas, then came to Louisiana State University under the Army Specialized Training Program. He served at Camp Maxey, Texas, with Company "F," 394th Infantry, 99th Division, with which he went to England Sept. 29, 1944. He fought in the Belgian Bulge, the Rhine Crossing and the Battle of Germany and has the Bronze Star Medal, European Theater Ribbon with Campaign Stars for the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Purple Heart, awarded at Percy Jones Hospital, for wounds received March 11, 1945, in the Rhine Crossing.

⑨ DONALD M. HARDY, 1st Lieut., CE, AUS

He attended Istrouma High and L. S. U. and was a map draftsman for the La. State Department of Highways prior to his induction in the Army July 20, 1942. He served with the Corps of Engineers at Camp Edwards, Mass., with the 533rd Boat and Shore Regiment, attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Belvoir, Va., and was assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 544th Engineers Boat and Shore Regiment, at Camp Edwards, Fort Devens, and Camp Myles Standish, Mass., Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla., and Camp Stoneman, Cal. On May 1, 1944, he went to Oro Bay, New Guinea, and served with the same unit also at Maffin Bay (Wakde), Morotai, N. E. I., Empress Augusta Bay on Bougainville, Luzon, in the Philippines, and Southern Honshu, Japan. He has the Bronze Arrowhead for assault landings (Morotai and Luzon), Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with three stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with star, American Theater and Victory Medals.

⑩ JAY W. STEVENS, Transportation Corps, AUS

Husband of Mattie Price Stevens of Hammond and father of Darlene Ann Stevens. He was born Sept. 2, 1917, the son of Azeriah James Stevens and Irene McCoy Stevens of Independence. He attended Independence High School, Independence, and was a produce broker in civilian life prior to his induction in the Army of the United States on April 26, 1945, at New Orleans. He was assigned to duty at Camp Plauche, New Orleans, with the Army Service Forces Transportation Corps. He was granted his honorable discharge (medical) at LeGarde General Hospital in New Orleans on Sept. 30, 1945.

⑪ WILLIAM EDWARD LAW, PFC, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mrs. Myrtle Miller Law, Istrouma. He is a graduate of Istrouma High School and entered the Army of the United States on Jan. 7, 1942, at Baton Rouge, going from Camp Livingston to Camp Wheeler, Ga., and Indiantown Gap, Pa. On May 25, 1942, he went to Fiji and entered combat at Guadalcanal, the Russells Group, New Georgia, Bougainville, and Luzon, P. I. He fought in the Campaign of Guadalcanal, the New Georgia and Bougainville action, and at Luzon, and has the Bronze Star, Asiatic-Pacific Theater and Philippine Liberation Ribbons with Campaign Stars, Good Conduct Medal, one Service Stripe, six Overseas Service Bars, and Combat Infantry Badge. He received the Purple Heart April 20, 1945, on Luzon, and Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster April 20, 1945.

⑫ WARREN FRANKLIN LAW, PFC, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mrs. Myrtle Miller Law, Istrouma. He was born Nov. 7, 1920, attended Baker High School, and was a Davey Tree Expert prior to his induction in the Army of the United States Feb. 7, 1944, at Baton Rouge. He served at Camp Roberts, Cal., and Camp Gordon, Ga., and embarked August 8, 1944, for the European Theater where he served in England, France, Holland, Belgium, Germany, and Czechoslovakia and fought in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the Bronze Star for heroic achievement in performance of duty, the European Theater Ribbon with four bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, one Service Stripe and four Overseas Service Bars, and was discharged April 3, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

⑬ WILLARD HILL, U. S. Army

He was born May 16, 1914, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hill of Walker, La. He is a graduate of the Walker, La., High School and entered the armed forces in 1944. Willard is the husband of Vera McLain of Satsuma, La.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑭ SAMUEL JOSEPH MARINO, Hospital Apprentice 1/C, USN

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Marino, 2924 Weller Avenue, Baton Rouge, and husband of Mary Agnes Montagnino Marino. He is a graduate of Istrouma High School. He entered the United States Navy Jan. 16, 1945, at New Orleans. After boot training at U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Cal., he attended Hospital Corps School in San Diego and was assigned to duty at the Naval Hospital at Pensacola, Fla. He served as a photostat technician at the U. S. Naval Separation Center at New Orleans. He is qualified to wear the American Theater Ribbon and Victory Ribbon and has a commendation from the commanding officer, USN Separation Center, New Orleans. He received his honorable discharge May 16, 1946, and is in the grocery business with his brother at 3002 Weller Avenue, Baton Rouge.

⑮ MICHAEL MARINO, Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Marino of Baton Rouge, La., he was born May 11, 1920, and attended No. Highland High School. Entering the service Dec. 6, 1940, Marino received training at Camp Beauregard, La., Camp Livingston, La., and Ft. Crockett, Texas. As a qualified Surgical Technician, Sergeant Marino left the States May 19, 1942, and served in New Guinea, Papua, Northern Solomon Islands and Southern Philippine Islands. He was awarded the Medical Badge, Distinguished Unit Badge, Unit Citation, American Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. Sergeant Marino was discharged July 18, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑯ JOSEPH MARINO, Petty Officer 2/C, U. S. Navy Seabees

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Marino and husband of Ann Vince Marino, he was born March 2, 1918, and attended North Highland High School in Baton Rouge, La. Entering the service July 27, 1943, Marino was assigned to Camp Perry, Williamsburg, Va. He left Port Hueneme, Cal., May 1, 1944, and served with the Seabees in the Pacific for over a year. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon and the Victory Ribbon. He was discharged Nov. 27, 1945, at New Orleans, La.

⑰ EMMIT EUGENE HENDERSON, BM 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Emmit Henderson and husband of Mrs. Ivy Lea Crumholt Henderson of Denham Springs, La., was born Nov. 3, 1919. He was graduated from Walker High School and was employed in construction work prior to entering the service on May 3, 1942, at Baton Rouge, La. He was assigned to the U. S. Navy Seabees and received training at Camp Perry, Williamsburg, Va., Camp Holliday, Gulfport, Miss., and Camp Heuneme, Oxford, Cal. On Nov. 21, 1942, he embarked for Pearl Harbor and served with the stevedores at Pearl Harbor, Marshall Islands and Guam. He saw action in the invasion of the Marshalls and the invasion of Guam and holds the Presidential Unit Citation on Guam. He was discharged Nov. 17, 1945, at New Orleans, La.

⑱ WILLIAM ROBERT HENDERSON, Major, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Henderson of Walker, La., and husband of Dorothy L. Henderson of Denver, Col., was born Aug. 11, 1907, and attended Walker High School, Port Arthur Business College at Port Arthur, Texas, and Post Reserve Officers' Prep School at Ft. Warren, Wyo. Henderson entered the services Dec. 20, 1940, and was assigned to Camp Forrest, Tenn., as Ass't Post Finance Officer. Later he was sent to Jackson Barracks at New Orleans, La., to serve in the capacity of Post Finance Officer. Major Henderson was then transferred to Camp Livingston, La., as Fiscal Director of the Post. He is the holder of the Pre-Pearl Harbor Ribbon, American Defense Medal and Victory Medal. He received a Certificate of Disability discharge Oct. 30, 1945.

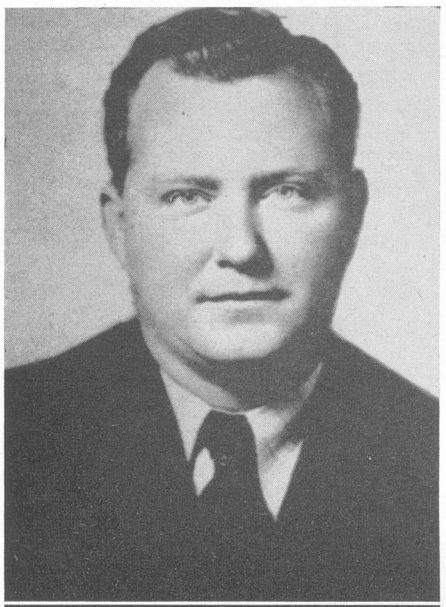
⑲ WILBER A. HILL, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Wilber A. Hill was born May 16, 1914, and after attending Walker High School, Walker, La., was employed as a carpenter prior to being inducted into the U. S. Army at New Orleans, La., on Dec. 3, 1941. He received his basic training at Fort Bragg, N. C., and on May 26, 1942, embarked for overseas. He saw action in the battle of the Solomons and in the campaign for the Philippines. Sergeant Hill holds the Unit Citation from 6th Army, Commendation from the 14th Corps, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, Pre-Pearl Harbor Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. After serving forty months overseas, he was discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Oct. 13, 1945.

⑳ CHARLES D. HENDERSON, Corporal, U. S. Army

Charles D. Henderson was born Sept. 4, 1926, and after attending Walker High School was employed as a grocery clerk prior to being inducted on Jan. 24, 1945, at New Orleans, La. He received basic infantry training at Camp Fannin, Texas, and advanced infantry training at Camp Maxey, Texas. On July 28, 1945, he embarked for the Philippine Islands where he served as a rifleman in the 81st Infantry Division and as a teletype operator with the 304th Signal Operations Battalion. He holds the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, Victory, Occupation and Good Conduct Ribbons, and Unit Citation, 304th Signal Battalion. On Nov. 9, 1946, he received his discharge at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Corporal Henderson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Emmitt Henderson, Walker, La.

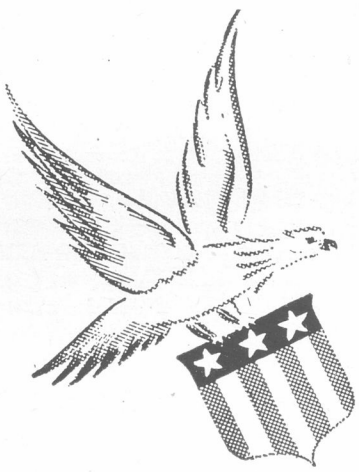
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Otis Lawrence Dunn

EMM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of the late Sidney A. Dunn, Sr., of Baton Rouge, La., he was born August 25, 1908, and attended the Istrouma High School. Prior to entering the Armed Forces he worked as a signwriter. In September, 1943, he entered the U. S. Navy at Baton Rouge, La. He received training at Camp Kill, Farragut, Idaho, and later served with the Navy Repair Unit, San Diego, Calif. Otis Dunn died of a heart attack at the U. S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, Calif., February 10, 1945. He was the husband of Mattie Levingston Dunn and father of Carolyn, Percy Lawrence, Beverly Dale, Johnny Mask and Larry Dunn.

② Herman Auther Melancon, Sr.

PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Auther Melancon and husband of Ethel Barthel Melancon of Baton Rouge, La., he was born October 14, 1914, and attended school at Baton Rouge, La. Entering the Armed Forces August 5, 1942, at New Orleans, La., Melancon was assigned to Fort Sill, Okla., Camp Barkley, Texas, and Camp Miles Standish, Mass. He served in the European Theater in the capacity of shipping clerk and truck driver. PFC Melancon participated in the Middle Eastern and European Campaigns and is the holder of the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three Stars and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged October 17, 1945, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He is the father of Herman Auther Melancon, Jr.





Kirby Monette Brown

First Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Stella Broussard and Vencise M. Brown of Columbia, La., and husband of Dorothy Christopher Brown of Baton Rouge, La., he was born March 30, 1924. Brown attended Columbia High School. Entering the service February, 1943, he received training at Mission Field, Texas, Bartow Field, Fla., and Tallahassee, Fla. Lieutenant Brown departed April 13, 1944, for England and gave his life while serving on a shuttle trip from England to Russia to Italy. He was the holder of the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. The Purple Heart was posthumously awarded his wife.

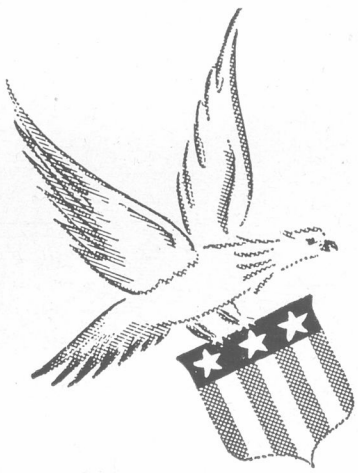
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Edward O. Bauer, Jr.

Captain, U. S. Army

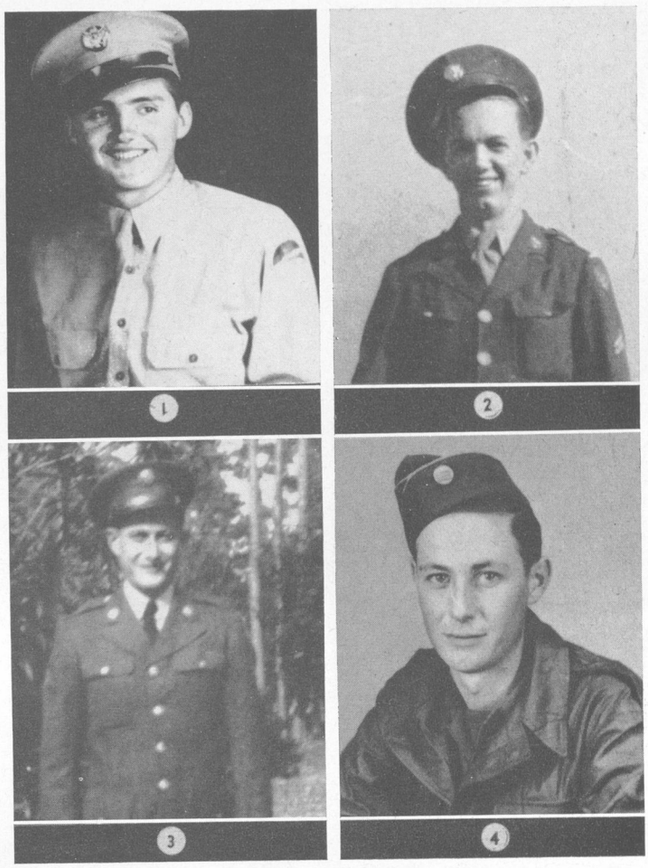
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed O. Bauer and husband of Juanita F. Bauer of Baton Rouge, La., he was born May 14, 1907. Bauer attended Baton Rouge High School. Entering the service July 3, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, La., he was assigned to the No. 726 MP Battalion. Bauer attended Officers' Candidate School at Fort Custer, Mich. After graduating he was assigned to Fort Hayes where he served with the Internal Security. Captain Bauer served as adjutant-provost marshal at Trinidad POW camp. He was awarded an Army Commendation Ribbon. After faithfully serving his country for more than three years, Captain Bauer was discharged June 9, 1946.

② Frederick Stephen Bowes, Jr.

First Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Jane Morrow Bowes and the late Frederick S. Bowes and husband of Julie Louise Duvic, he was born April 14, 1923, and attended Louisiana State University. Bowes entered the service February 4, 1943, and received training at Fort Sill, Okla. He was then assigned to the 522nd F. A. Bn., at Camp Shelby, Miss., later being sent to the 747th F. A. Bn. He departed December 17, 1944, for England and participated in the Battle of the Rhineland and Central Germany Campaigns. Lieutenant Bowes was awarded the European Theater Ribbon with two Battle Stars, Commendation Ribbon, Bronze Star Medal, Army of Occupation Medal and American Theater Ribbon. After more than three years of meritorious service he was discharged July 2, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Jesse R. Coleman

Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Coleman of Dry Prong, La., and husband of Lillie E. Coleman of Baton Rouge, La., he was born December 7, 1923, and attended Ouachita Parish High School. Coleman entered the service February 26, 1943, and received training as an infantryman at Camp Butner, N. C., and as a machine gunner at Camp Pickett, Va. He left the States in May, 1944, and participated in the fighting in Normandy, Luxembourg, Germany and in the Ruhr Valley. He was awarded three Bronze Battle Stars, the Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal and Combat Badge. After more than two years of faithful and meritorious service, Corporal Coleman was discharged in November, 1945.

② Calvin R. McMichael

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence R. McMichael of Ringgold, La., he was born March 31, 1925, and attended Jamestown High School. Entering the service June 1, 1943, he was assigned to Amarillo Army Air Base, Texas, for training, later being sent to Chanute Field, Ill. He departed August, 1944, for overseas and served as a switchboard operator on Saipan and Iwo Jima. He participated in Air Offensive over Japan, Eastern Mandates, and Western Pacific Campaigns. Sergeant McMichael is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars, Presidential Unit Citation, Meritorious Unit Award, Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal and American Theater Ribbon. He was discharged January 1, 1946.

③ Samuel M. Templeton

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Templeton of Blanks, La., and husband of Noralee Templeton, he was born December 11, 1918. Templeton attended school at Raymond, La. Entering the service August 19, 1941, he was assigned to Keesler Field, Miss., later being sent to Frederick, Okla. He was then sent to Kearns, Utah, with the 883rd Bombardment Squadron. Departing July 19, 1945, for overseas he served for four months on Iwo Jima as a cook. Sergeant Templeton is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Ribbon and American Defense Medal. He was discharged December 8, 1945.

④ Herman L. Templeton

PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Templeton of Blanks, La., he was born June 29, 1923 and attended school at Raymond, Miss., and Utica, Miss. Entering the Armed Forces January 13, 1944, Templeton was assigned to Camp Blanding, Fla., later being sent to Fort Meade, Md. He departed July 27, 1944, for Italy and participated in the bitter fighting of the Rome-Arno, North Apennines and Po Valley Campaigns. PFC Templeton was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Stars, the Purple Heart, Victory Medal. After more than one year of faithful service to his country he was discharged December 2, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① John Robert Smith

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie M. Smith and husband of Lavelle Rayburn Smith of Baton Rouge, La., he was born July 25, 1919. He attended Lecompte High School. Choosing the Army as his profession, Smith enlisted December 1, 1937, in Alexandria, La. In 1938 he was sent to Hawaii and returned to the States in 1940. In October, 1942, Sergeant Smith again left for overseas. As an infantryman he participated in the bitter fighting of the Algerian-French Moroccan Campaign, Tunisian Campaign, Sicilian Campaign and Naples-Foggia Campaign. For his gallantry he was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal with four Bronze Stars and one Bronze Arrowhead, and the American Defense Service Medal. He received the Purple Heart October 29, 1943. Sergeant Smith received a certificate of disability discharge at McCloskey General Hospital, Temple, Texas.

② Warren Franklin Yaun

PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Belle Clark Thompson and the late Warren Franklin Yaun, Sr., and husband of Hazel Chaney Yaun, he was born September 5, 1921, and attended school in Baton Rouge, La. He later entered welding school in Troy, Ohio. Yaun entered the Armed Forces July 11, 1944, at Baton Rouge, La., and received his basic training at Camp Fannin, Texas. He was then sent to Fort Ord, Calif. He departed December 26, 1944, for Leyte. Yaun got his initiation to combat during the invasion of Aka Island in the Kerama Retto. Before moving into the Okinawa Campaign he fought through the bitter six-day battle of Iwo Shima, where his division was credited with killing 3,050 enemy. PFC Yaun was killed in action by mortar fire May 11, 1945. This gallant soldier was the holder of the Combat Infantryman Badge. The Purple Heart was posthumously awarded to his widow, Mrs. Hazel C. Yaun. He was the father of Sandra Jean Yaun.





Manuel Russell, Jr.

CM 1/C, U. S. Naval Construction Battalion

Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Russell of Baton Rouge, La., was born February 19, 1917. He is a graduate of the Plaquemine (La.) Grammar School and attended Catholic High School in Baton Rouge. Prior to entering the armed forces, he was employed as a carpenter by the Badger Construction Company. September 22, 1943, he entered the U. S. Navy and received his boot training at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va. He was later stationed at Camp Endicott and Camp Thomas, Davisville, R. I., where he took training in maneuvers on rifle ranges and completed a course in the "Wharves and Docks." Departing February 1, 1944, for North Africa, he was later sent to Italy. On the Green Beach of Anzio Bridgehead, Italy, Russell was fatally wounded in action. The Purple Heart was mailed to his wife in Baton Rouge, June 15, 1944. He was the husband of Mrs. Velma Russell and the father of Thomas Wayne Russell.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Harry Buford

② Adrian David Stephens

③ Brady Womack Stephens

④ Mary E. Regan

⑤ Ross Maggio

⑥ Roy A. Bercegeay

⑦ Donald Allen Fitzgerald

⑧ Daniel F. Regan

⑨ Kirby A. Stephens

⑩ James Green Stephens

⑪ Edward Loyd Forbes

⑫ Adam Martin McGowan

⑬ E. D. Mitchell

⑭ Peter Joseph Macaluso

⑮ Russell *G.* Macaluso

⑯ Thomas J. Guy

⑰ Clyde Oscar Watson

⑱ Charles Warren Guy

⑲ Harry A. Guy

⑳ Charles Joseph Watson, Jr.

① HARRY BUFORD, Chief Shipfitter, U. S. Navy

Son of Harry M. Buford and husband of Clara Hazel Buford, he was born April 1, 1904. He attended McDonough Jefferson High School. Entering the U. S. Navy Seabees, he was assigned to Camp Perry, Va. Buford departed Dec. 21, 1943, for overseas and served in the Canal Zone, Taboga Island, Galapagos Island and Salinas, Ecuador. He saw action with the anti-submarine service in the Pacific. Buford was awarded a Unit Commendation for drydock job and for saving WAARF installations during a Pacific storm. He was discharged Oct. 9, 1945. He is the father of Harriet Blanche Buford.

② ADRIAN DAVID STEPHENS, U. S. Army Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Brady Y. Stephens of Baton Rouge, La., he was born May 5, 1924. Stephens attended Seventh Ward High School. Later he entered Baton Rouge Trade School. Entering the service Feb. 24, 1943, at Baton Rouge, La., he was sent to Germany where he is still serving.

③ BRADY WOMACK STEPHENS, U. S. Army Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Brady Y. Stephens of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Camille Thrash Stephens of Selma, Ala., he was born March 15, 1923. Stephens attended Seventh Ward High School. Prior to his enlistment he was a supply clerk. Entering the service May 3, 1943, Stephens was assigned to Selma, Ala. He is still serving in China. He is the father of Freda Linda and Mildred Elaine Stephens.

④ MARY E. REGAN, 1st Lt., U. S. Army

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Regan of Baton Rouge, La., was born March 19, 1922. After attending high school and St. Joseph's Academy in Baton Rouge, she entered Our Lady of the Lake Training School. Lieutenant Regan was a graduate nurse before entering the Army Nurse Corps on April 20, 1944, at Fort Sam Houston. After serving for more than a year at the Army and Navy General Hospital at Hot Springs, Ark., she sailed on May 9, 1945, for Chahua, India, where she was assigned to the 234th General Hospital. On March 7, 1946, she received her discharge at Fort Sam Houston.

⑤ ROSS MAGGIO, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. Sam Maggio and the late Mrs. L. Maggio of Baton Rouge, La. He was born Dec. 13, 1915, and attended the Istrouma Grammar and High Schools in Baton Rouge, La. Before entering the armed forces, he was employed by the Louisiana State Road Commission. Ross Maggio is the husband of Doris Anderson Maggio and father of Ross Maggio, Jr., Carolyn Ann, and Connie Maggio. He entered the U. S. Army April 1, 1944.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑥ ROY A. BERCEGEAY, Army Air Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Bercegeay of Gonzales, La. He attended the Gonzales High School before entering the Army Air Corps.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑦ DONALD ALLEN FITZGERALD, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Fitzgerald of Zachary, La., was born Nov. 12, 1927. He received his education at the public schools in Zachary and also attended Louisiana State University. He volunteered for service in the U. S. Army July 4, 1945. Donald is now in Cadet Flying School at the Selective Training Naval Air Station, Dallas, Texas.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑧ DANIEL F. REGAN, S 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Regan of Baton Rouge, La., was born June 25, 1927. He attended Catholic High School in Baton Rouge and then entered Louisiana State University. He was inducted on May 11, 1945, at New Orleans, La., and was assigned to the U. S. Navy and received his boot training at San Diego Naval Base. He embarked on Sept. 10, 1945, and was assigned to sea duty on the USS Sargent Bay.

⑨ KIRBY A. STEPHENS, Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver A. Stephens of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Oct. 7, 1921, and attended Seventh Ward High School. Entering the Army Air Force July 8, 1942, Stephens received training at Sheppard Field, Texas, Radar Training at Boca Raton, Fla., and Geneva Army Air Base, Nebr. He departed April 2, 1944, for overseas where he did communication maintenance work. Sergeant Stephens participated in Air Offensive, Europe, Rome-Arno, Normandy, Northern France, Southern France, North Apennines, Rhineland, Central Europe, Po Valley, and Combat, Balkans Campaigns. He was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Unit Citation and the Good Conduct Medal. After more than three years of meritorious service for his country, he was discharged Sept. 16, 1945.

⑩ JAMES GREEN STEPHENS, S 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Oliver Averett and Ollie Womack Stephens of Baton Rouge, La., was born June 19, 1927. He entered the armed forces June 15, 1945, at New Orleans, La., and was stationed at San Diego, Cal., later serving on the USS Saratoga. James wears the American Theater Ribbon. He is now signed up in the Naval Reserve for four years.

⑪ EDWARD LOYD FORBES, U. S. Navy, Seabees

Sn of William Jessie Forbes of Pride, La., he was born April 20, 1927. Forbes entered the service April 3, 1945, at New Orleans, La., and was assigned to San Diego, Cal., for boot training. He received further training at Camp Parks, Cal. Departing Oct. 6, 1945, Forbes served with the U. S. Navy Seabees in Sasebo, Japan. He is still in the service.

⑫ ADAM MARTIN McGOWAN, U. S. Navy

Son of Mary Ethel McGowan of Pride, La., he was born August 12, 1923, and attended school at Pride La. Entering the armed forces at New Orleans, La., March 28, 1945, McGowan was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Center at San Diego, Cal. Later he was shipped to Camp Elliott, Cal., for further training. McGowan served in Pearl Harbor from July, 1945, to October, 1945. He was then sent to China.

⑬ E. D. MITCHELL, G. M. 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of H. J. Mitchell of Watson, La., and Mrs. Elizabeth Roe and husband of Lula Belle Forbes Mitchell, both of Baywood, La., he was born August 9, 1920. He attended school at Pride, La., later entering a Government Trade School. Entering the U. S. Navy Oct. 6, 1942, Mitchell was assigned to the Armed Guard Center, Brooklyn, N. Y., later being sent to Little Creek, Va. He departed Feb. 22, 1943, for Europe where he participated in the European-African-Middle Eastern campaign. He is the holder of the Good Conduct Medal and American Theater Ribbon. After faithfully serving his country for more than three years, Mitchell was discharged Jan. 28, 1946. He is the father of Barbara Jean Mitchell.

⑭ PETER JOSEPH MACALUSO,

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy Submarine Service

Son of Mrs. Nancy Macaluso of Baton Rouge, La., he was born April 21, 1925, and attended Baton Rouge High School. He entered the service March 18, 1943, and received training at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Cal. On July 21, 1943, he departed for Pearl Harbor and served at the U. S. Naval Submarine Base there. He also served at the U. S. Naval Submarine Base at Midway where he was assigned to USS Silversides as a Radar Operator. He participated in two war patrols against enemy shipping. This gallant boy was awarded the Submarine Combat Pin with one gold star, Presidential Unit Citation, Scroll expressing gratitude for duties well done, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon and American Theater Ribbon. He was discharged Nov. 18, 1945, at New Orleans, La.

⑮ RUSSELL G. MACALUSO, T/5, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Nancy Macaluso of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Agnes O. Macaluso, he was born April 14, 1920, and attended Baton Rouge High School. Russell entered the armed forces Dec. 14, 1942, and received training at Ft. Lewis, Wash., Camp Gruber, Okla. He departed Dec. 6, 1943, for England and participated in the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe Campaigns. He was awarded the European Theater Ribbon with five battle stars, the Good Conduct Medal and American Defense Medal. After faithfully serving his country for more than two years he was discharged Sept. 28, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑯ THOMAS J. GUY, PFC, Infantry

Son of Leona F. Guy of Zachary, La. He was born Nov. 15, 1919, and attended the Zachary High School. Sept. 14, 1942, he entered the U. S. Army at Camp Beauregard and was later stationed at Amarillo, Texas, Fort Ord, Cal., and El Paso, Texas. Departing July 6, 1945, for the Hawaiian Islands, he later served at Okinawa. He is the holder of the Good Conduct Medal and received his honorable discharge Feb. 12, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss. Thomas is the husband of Judy M. Garon of Baton Rouge, La.

⑰ CLYDE OSCAR WATSON, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Watson, Sr., of Zachary, La., he was born Feb. 14, 1916, and attended Zachary High School. Entering the armed forces Sept. 16, 1942, Watson was sent to Camp Hulen, Texas, and Camp Cooke, Cal. He departed Sept. 25, 1943, for Australia as a Range Section Operator. He served in Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, and the Southern Philippines. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three bronze stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two bronze stars, the Good Conduct Medal. After faithfully serving his country for more than three years, he was discharged Oct. 22, 1945.

⑱ CHARLES WARREN GUY, S 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Leona Frances Guy and husband of Geraldine Alice Guy of Zachary, La., he was born Dec. 19, 1923, and attended Zachary High School. Entering the Service June 1, 1943, he was assigned to San Diego, Cal., for training. Guy departed Nov. 4, 1943, for overseas and participated in the Battles of Saipan, Leyte, Luzon and Japan. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with five stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two stars, the American Theater Ribbon and Victory Ribbon. Guy was discharged March 31, 1946, after more than two years of faithful service for his country.

⑲ HARRY A. GUY, PFC, U. S. Army

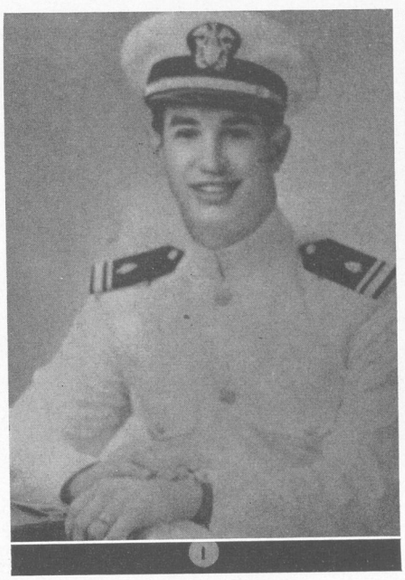
Son of Leona F. Guy and husband of Geraldine Achord Guy, he was born May 27, 1921, and attended Zachary High School. Entering the service July 18, 1942, he received training at Camp Roberts, Cal., Camp Swift, Texas, as a truck driver and mechanic. Guy departed Nov. 23, 1942, for overseas and participated in the bitter fighting of Northern France, Central Europe and the Aleutian Islands. He was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal, Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal. PFC Guy was discharged Dec. 15, 1945.

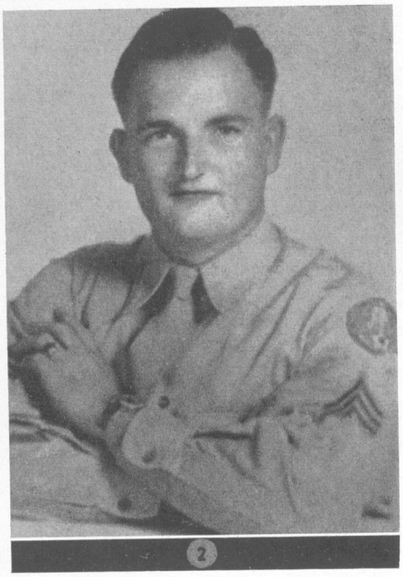
⑳ CHARLES JOSEPH WATSON, JR.,

Metalsmith 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Watson, Sr., of Zachary, La., he was born March 19, 1918. He is the husband of Amber Achord Watson. Watson attended Zachary High School. Entering the U. S. Navy March 4, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Allen, Va., Camp Bradford, Va., Camp Parks, Cal., and Camp Rousseaux, Cal. Departing June 16, 1942, for overseas, Watson served as a blacksmith and auto mechanic on Johnston Island, Pearl Harbor, Samar and Guiuan. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. After more than three years of faithful service to his country he was discharged Dec. 22, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA







① Ben Frank Thompson, Jr.

U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben F. Thompson of Baton Rouge, La., he was born June 7, 1921. After graduating from Istrouma High School, Thompson attended Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, La. After receiving his B. S. degree he entered Louisiana State University School of Medicine at New Orleans, La., and received his M. D. He served an internship in Boston City Hospital, Boston, Mass. Entering the U. S. Navy July 1, 1945, Thompson was assigned to the U. S. Naval Hospital, Farragut, Idaho, where he served as Medical Officer. He departed August 9, 1945, for the Pacific where he served as Medical Officer aboard the USS Oglala (Arg. 1). He is still serving with the U. S. Navy.

② Dempsey D. White

Sergeant, Air Forces

Son of Mrs. Bessie Harelson Phillips, Route 2, Baton Rouge. He was born September 8, 1922, and attended Seventh Ward High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the Army Air Forces on August 2, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, he served at Sheppard Field, Texas, basic training; Lowry Field, Denver, Colo., Armament and Remote Control Turret School; Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas, overseas training; Tinker Field, Oklahoma City, Okla., on the line training, and Fort Lawton, Wash., port of embarkation. Sergeant White went to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations on March 11, 1945. He was stationed in the Mariana Islands group on the Island of Guam, assigned to duty as an electrical instrument and gyro repairman. He served in this capacity throughout his period of overseas service. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on March 9, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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② Ernest P. Shumway

PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Katherine C. Shumway of Baton Rouge, La., he was born August 29, 1908, and attended Boyce High School. Entering the Armed Forces October 9, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Adair, Ore., for training, later being sent to Fort Lewis, Wash. He departed March 6, 1945, for Belgium where he served with 4288 QM Railroad Company. PFC Shumway was honorably discharged September 21, 1945.

③ Philip M. Michelli

T/5, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Mary Michelli and the late Mr. Michelli and husband of Harriet J. Michelli of Baton Rouge, La., he was born July 6, 1921. Michelli attended Wyandotte School and Istrouma High School. Entering the service December 22, 1942, he received training at Camp Carson, Col. He participated in the Louisiana maneuvers and was then shipped to Camp Patrick Henry, Va., for overseas assignment. Leaving the States Nov. 16, 1943, Michelli was sent to North Africa for further training with the combat engineers. He participated in the bitter fighting in Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. He was awarded the Distinguished Unit Badge with Bronze Arrowhead, the Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal. After faithfully serving his country for three years Michelli was discharged December 1, 1945.

① Thaddeus F. Shumway

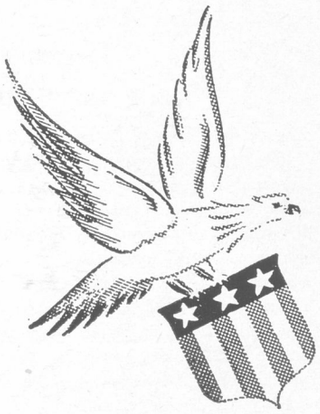
PFC, U. S. Army

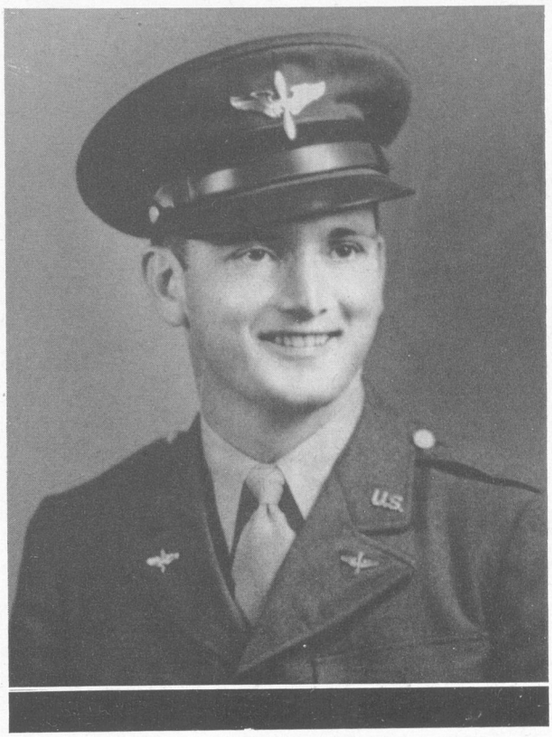
Son of Mrs. Katherine C. Shumway of Baton Rouge, La., he was born February 21, 1915, and attended Boyce High School, Nederland High School. Entering the Armed Forces September 25, 1940, Shumway was assigned to Company A, Eighth Infantry, Fourth Division, Fort Benning, Ga. He departed January 18, 1944, for England with the same outfit and participated in the bitter fighting at Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. In a battle 10 miles east of Aachen, Germany, Company A was kept isolated for three days by the the Germans with only 30 rifles and one machine gun. The entire battle was fought without food or clean water. PFC Shumway was awarded a Unit Citation, European Theater Medal, Good Conduct Medal and American Defense Medal. He received the Purple Heart June 19, 1944, with Oak Leaf Cluster. After more than four years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged June 22, 1945.

④ Floyd O. Miller

S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mary Evelyn Miller and the late Charles A. Miller of Jena, La., he was born July 13, 1903. He is the husband of the late Bertha Parker Miller. Miller attended Jena High School. Entering the service November 7, 1942, he was assigned to St. Petersburg, Fla.; Las Vegas, Nev.; Buckley Field, Col., and Atlantic City, N. J. He departed June 1, 1943, for overseas where he flew long missions in a B-17 into the Baltic and on German objectives in Poland. He was killed May 28, 1944, when the B-17 in which he was flying crashed at Niemeck, eight miles southeast of Berlin. Sergeant Miller received commendations from Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Air Chief Marshal Portal, Chief of Air Staff, RAF; General Marshall; General Arnold; Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, Commanding General, Eighth Air Force, Brigadier General Anderson, Commanding General, VIII Bomber Command, and Brig. Gen. Williams. He was the father of Mona Rose Miller.





Pierre Leslie Bordelon

Tec/Sgt., Air Forces

Husband of Mrs. Nancy B. Bordelon, 535 North Sixth Street, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred H. Bordelon, 2539 Perkins Road. He was born July 18, 1921, and attended Catholic High School and Louisiana State University, entering the Army Air Forces on October 16, 1942, at New Orleans. He served at San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center, Kelly Field, Texas, at Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, at Kingman, Ariz. (aviation and gunnery), at Sioux Falls Army Air Field, Sioux Falls, S. D. (radio operator), at Ardmore Army Air Field, Okla., and at Green Island, Neb. As radio operator and gunner on B-17 aircraft, he went to England with the Eighth Air Force on April 6, 1944, serving with the Third Bombardment Division, 95th Group, 336th Bombardment Squadron, on 24 combat missions. The gallant airman was declared missing in action June 18, 1944, when the B-17 bomber on which he was serving was forced down in the North Sea. He was declared dead June 19, 1945, and had the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star, Presidential Citation Unit Ribbon, Good Conduct and Sharpshooter Medals, and the Purple Heart, awarded posthumously August 6, 1945.

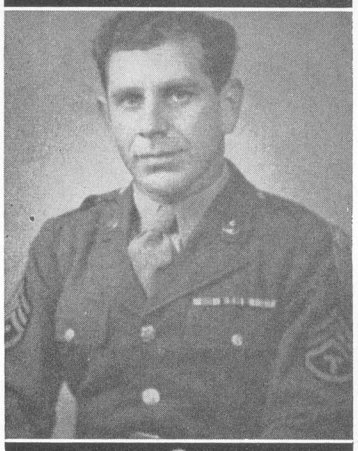
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



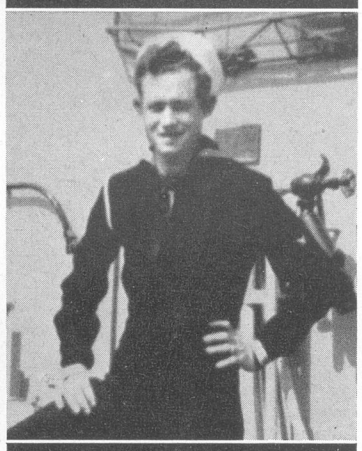
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② Emerson Thompson Rogillio, Jr.

T/4, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Rogillio of Baton Rouge, La., he was born July 12, 1916, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the service September 5, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Crowder, Mo., for training. He departed January 19, 1944, for England and participated in the bitter fighting in Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. Rogillio is the holder of the European Theater of Operations Medal with four Battle Stars and the Good Conduct Medal. After more than three years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged October 29, 1945.

③ Frank Fonte

T 3/G, U. S. Army

Son of Joe Fonte of Zachary, La., was born January 29, 1909. After attending Zachary High School he was employed as an automotive mechanic before being inducted into the U. S. Army on April 15, 1942, at Camp Livingston, La. He received his training at Camp Lee, Fort Dix and Fort Devens before embarking on May 3, 1943, for Iran. His assignments included the Persian Gulf Command and the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations where he served as an automotive mechanic in an ordnance company. He saw further service on the LUX mission to China. T 3/G Fonte served his country unselfishly and loyally for more than three years before receiving his discharge on November 8, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

① Sidney D. Bailey

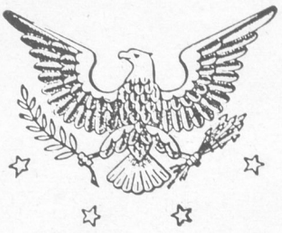
S/Sgt., U. S. Army

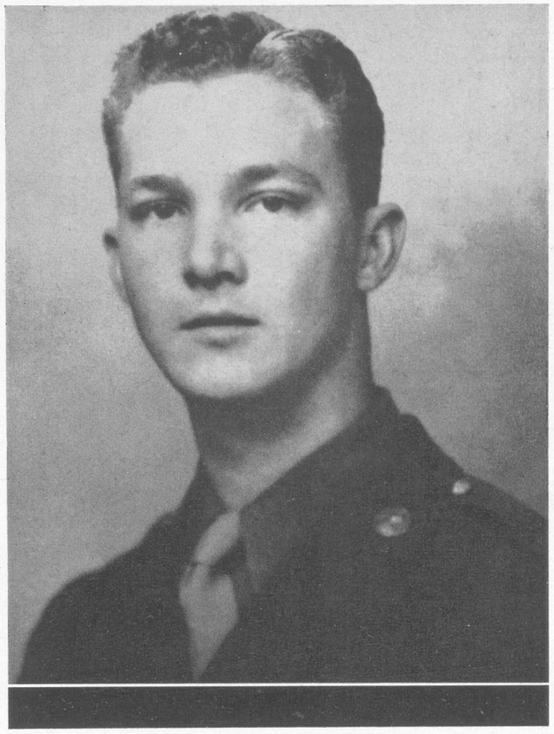
Son of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Bailey, Sr., of Greenwell, La., and husband of Lillie Hazel Bailey, he was born August 9, 1920. Bailey attended Central High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the Army January 9, 1941 he received training at Camp Claiborne, La., and was assigned to Fort Ord, Calif., as a surgical technician. Sergeant Bailey departed November 24, 1943, for New Guinea. He served as a surgical technician in New Guinea and the Netherlands East Indies. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal accompanied by a Citation which commended him for his meritorious services in handling patients at Morotai, Netherlands East Indies. Sergeant Bailey also holds the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one Bronze Star, the American Defense Medal, American Theater Medal and Good Conduct Medal. After four years of faithful service to his country he was discharged December 19, 1945.

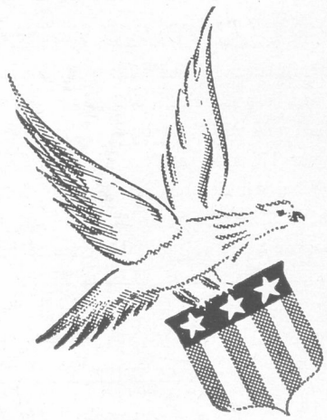
④ Harold R. Hubbs

Y 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Perlie David Hubbs of Baton Rouge, La., he was born August 21, 1927, and attended Istrouma High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the U. S. Navy June 19, 1945, at New Orleans, La., he was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif., later being sent to Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Wash. Hubbs was then sent to the U. S. Naval Station, Seattle, Wash., and served aboard the USS APL-5, USS Biloxi, USS Matanikau and USS Boston. He is the holder of the American Theater Ribbon and Victory Medal. Hubbs is still serving with the U. S. Navy.





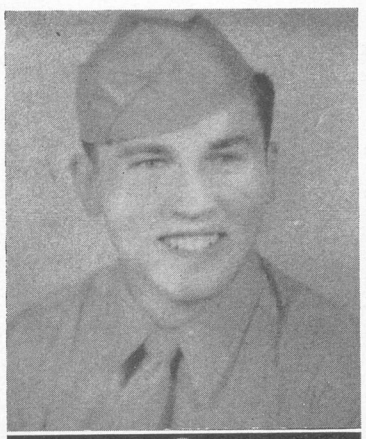


Leslie Lee Alexander

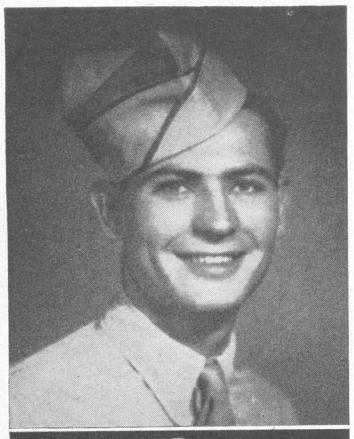
U. S. Army

Leslie Lee Alexander, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie C. Marleg Alexander, 3347 Calumet Street, Baton Rouge, La., was born May 13, 1924. He attended the Wyandotte and Istrouma Schools and before entering the service was a master plumber. He was inducted into the service March 29, 1943, at Baton Rouge, La., and was first sent to Camp Beauregard, La., and later completed his training at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md. January, 1944, he departed for overseas service, his first assignment being England. After more than a year of unselfish service to his country, Leslie Lee Alexander was fatally injured August 20, 1944, and his remains are interred in the U. S. Military Cemetery St. James, near Rennes, France.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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② Glenn J. Hopkins

PFC, U. S. Army

Glenn J. Hopkins was born May 4, 1924, and attended schools in Baton Rouge, La. He was inducted July 2, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, Alexandria, La., and assigned to the Artillery. After receiving his basic training in this country, he embarked on November 7, 1943, for New Guinea. He saw action in New Guinea, Philippines, Western Pacific and Ryukyus. PFC Hopkins holds the American Theater Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Campaign Medal with four Bronze Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. On January 10, 1946, he received his discharge at Camp Fannin, Texas. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Berlin Hopkins, Baton Rouge, La.

③ William M. Burns, Jr.

PFC, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Burns of Baton Rouge, La., he was born March 21, 1924, and attended Baton Rouge High School and MITI, Memphis, Tenn. Entering the service on August 17, 1943, at New Orleans, La., Burns was assigned to Naval Air Station, San Diego, Calif., and Marine Air Station, El Toro, Calif., as Aircraft Parts Designer. After more than two years of faithful service to his country he was discharged December 21, 1945, at El Toro, Calif.

① Joseph Leo Pourciau, Jr.

PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Leo Pourciau, Sr., of Baton Rouge, La., was born on August 24, 1923. After graduating from Baton Rouge High School he attended Louisiana State University. He entered the military service at Camp Beauregard, La., on June 4, 1943, and was assigned to Camp Fannin, Texas. He later trained at Camp Howze, Texas; Camp Bowie, Texas, and Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He was shipped overseas in September, 1944, and served in France as squad leader of a rifle squad. PFC Pourciau participated in the Rhineland Campaign and Battle of the Ardennes and was awarded the Purple Heart on December 15, 1944. He was discharged from the service at Camp Shelby, Miss., on January 31, 1946.

④ Valerie F. J. Patin

First Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Patin of Baton Rouge, La., he was born January 27, 1921. After being graduated from Baton Rouge High School, he attended Louisiana State University for two years before being inducted on September 21, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He was assigned to the air forces and received training at Keesler Field Aircraft Mechanic School, Cadet School at Boca Raton, Fla., and Yale University. He was graduated June 25, 1943, as second lieutenant as maintenance engineer and sent to Ogden Air Depot. After serving at various Army air fields, Lieutenant Patin was sent to Flight Engineer School at Amarillo, Texas, and then on to Denver, graduating as flight engineer B-29 on July 1, 1945. He later served as an instructor at El Paso and Albuquerque before receiving his discharge on December 19, 1945, at Barksdale Field, Shreveport, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① William Preston Barnes III

Captain, Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Preston Barnes, Jr., Baton Rouge, La. He was born September 20, 1920, and was a graduate of LSU. He entered service October 29, 1942, and later attended Air Force Intelligence School, Hunter Field, Savannah, Ga. After serving at various fields throughout the country, he became chief of intelligence section of 386th Squadron, the position he held during his entire Army service overseas. He departed for New Guinea November 1, 1943, and later served on Luzon in the Philippines and Okinawa. Although a ground officer and not required to fly, he went on numerous combat missions as a gunner. During a flight from Okinawa in a B-32 heavy bomber, he was instantly killed when the plane crashed in that sector. During his service he was awarded the Bronze Star and Presidential Unit Citation. The Purple Heart was awarded posthumously after he was declared killed in action.

② Edward Frank Braithwaite

Major, Quartermaster Corps, AUS

Husband of Mildred Sanders Braithwaite, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Braithwaite of Baton Rouge. He was born March 26, 1918, and attended Baton Rouge High School, University High School and LSU. Major Braithwaite entered military service June 17, 1941, at Camp Shelby as a private and served as assistant shop supervisor in a Quartermaster Heavy Maintenance Company. He was a platoon leader at Camp Polk and an instructor in motor maintenance at Fort Francis E. Warren, Wyo. He spent three years in the European Theater of Operations, embarking September 26, 1942, for the British Isles where he served as a detachment commander in Ireland, Scotland and England. In North Africa he was assigned to duty as QM Class II and Class IV officer and served in the same capacity in Italy, France and Germany. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Rome-Arno, the Invasion of Southern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the Croix de Guerre, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars and the Bronze Arrowhead, the American Defense Service and Victory Medals.

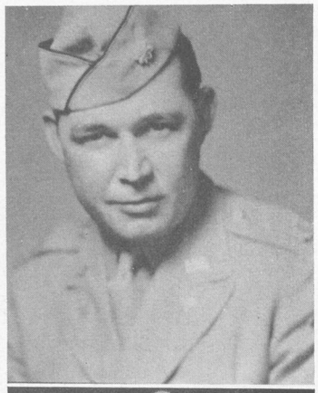
③ Wylie Barrow Pipes

Private First Class, U. S. Army

Son of William Windsor and Bessie Green Pipes, Denham Springs, La. He was born April 22, 1925, and attended Seventh Ward High School and Louisiana State University. Inducted August 18, 1943, at New Orleans, he received his infantry training at Fort Benning, Ga.; University of Illinois; Camp Polk, La., and at Fort Slocum, New York. On Oct. 21, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater where he served in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland, Germany and Czechoslovakia. PFC Pipes participated in the Campaigns of Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe, and he has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was also awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He was honorably discharged April 1, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.



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④ Donald Green Pipes

Captain, U. S. Army Air Force

Son of William Windsor and Bessie Green Pipes, Box 91, Denham Springs, La. He was born November 15, 1922, and attended Seventh Ward High School and Louisiana State University. He entered the service February 21, 1943, and received his training at Sheppard Field, Texas; Black Hills Teachers' College, South Dakota; Santa Ana Army Air Base, Calif.; Will Rogers Field, Okla.; and Camp Kilmer, N. J. On October 12, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater where he served as photo-reconnaissance pilot and operations officer in England and Germany. Captain Pipes participated in the Campaigns of Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe, and he has the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged May 22, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Robert Nicholas Bersuder

Captain, Infantry, Army

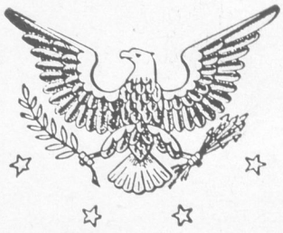
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harold Bersuder, 402 Lovers Lane, Baton Rouge. He was born September 20, 1919, and attended University High School and Louisiana State University. From school he went into the Army November 11, 1940, at Fort Jackson, S. C., where he served as a platoon leader, Company K, 34th Infantry Regiment, to November, 1941. Alerted for overseas duty, he was assigned command of Headquarters Detachment, Third Battalion. He embarked for Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, December 16, 1941, and his unit became Hawaiian Department Reserve manning the beaches and defending Oahu. He became executive officer and battalion motor officer in September, 1942. Joining the 24th Division in July, 1943, he sailed for Australia in August and went to Goodenough Island, becoming commander of Headquarters Company, First Battalion. He served in Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, and participated in the Hollandia-Tanemerah Bay Operation and Biak Island Operation, taking command of Headquarters Company, Third Battalion. Captain Bersuder has the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star for the New Guinea Campaign. He was honorably released from active duty September 22, 1945, at Camp Blanding, Fla.

② Harold J. Bango

Lieutenant Colonel, AUS

Husband of Mrs. John Burton Bango, 200 Prospect Street, Shreveport, and 915 South Sixteenth Street, Baton Rouge. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Bango, and has a son, James W. Bango. He attended Louisiana State University and Centenary College. Entering service October 10, 1940, he served at Camp Beauregard to November 26, 1942, as Exchange Officer and went to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Command and General Staff School. He served as a staff officer at the Desert Training Center, Calif., and at Camp Anza for overseas shipment. On April 12, 1943, he went to Calcutta, India, Headquarters Advance Section No. 1, then to Headquarters Base Section No. 1 at Karachi where he served as commanding officer, Staging Area and Replacement Depot, N. Malir, and as S-3. He served at Kunming, China, August 26, 1943, to November 30, 1944, and with the Chinese Combat Command as assistant chief of staff and G-4, to August 18, 1944. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Salween, Kweichow, and Chi-chiang, and has the Bronze Star Medal. Lieutenant Colonel Bango was commissioned October 24, 1926, and is also a graduate of Tank School (1928) and Infantry School (1931) at Fort Benning, and has been on active duty from time to time.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





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① Jack Craig

Watertender 1/C, Navy

Husband of Doris Aaron and father of Toni Jacquelyn, Route 1, Baker, La. He was born January 22, 1916, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie D. Craig, and is a graduate of Central High School. He entered service September 3, 1942, at Naval Air Station, New Orleans, La., and later attended Watertender's School at Philadelphia, Pa. Another assignment took him to Mobile, Ala. He sailed for overseas November 27, 1944, and performed duties as Watertender aboard USS Burias (AG 69) on Saipan. After completing three years of faithful service, he received his honorable discharge October 28, 1945, at New Orleans, La.

② Amedee Cyprian Hebert

Sergeant, Infantry

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Cyprian Hebert, 738 Lakeland Drive, Baton Rouge, La. He was born June 21, 1924, and attended Catholic High School and Louisiana State University. He entered service July 30, 1943, at New Orleans, La., and received basic training at Camp Beauregard, La., and Fort Benning, Ga. He later took ASTP training at Arkansas State College and followed with duty at Camp Maxey, Texas, Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., Camp Gordon, Ga., and Fort Sill, Okla., in infantry training detachments. His service in the Army didn't take him outside the United States and he received an honorable discharge February 4, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

③ Lionel Lamo Spillman

PFC, Infantry, AUS

Husband of Bertile Marie Spillman, Route 4, Baton Rouge, and father of Lionel James and Leonard Joseph Spillman. He was born March 6, 1922, the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Spillman of Baton Rouge, and attended Central High School. He was with Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, Louisiana Division, prior to entering the Army of the United States in the Infantry on August 24, 1944, at Baton Rouge. He was assigned to Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark., transferring to Camp Campbell, Ky. On January 1, 1945, he embarked for France where he served until entering combat. He fought in the Campaigns of the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Victory Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge and others. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Atterbury, Ind., on November 9, 1945.

④ Willie D. Dougherty

Tec/5, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Dougherty of Pride. He was born September 6, 1913, and attended Pride High School. He was a farmer and mechanic prior to entering the Army of the United States March 14, 1941, at Camp Livingston in Anti-Aircraft Artillery. He received training at Camp Hulen, Texas, and embarked January 31, 1942, for the Canton Islands, serving in the Hawaiian Islands, the Philippines and the Ryukyus Group as portable power plant operator for an automatic weapons battery, with which he fought in the Philippines and Ryukyus Campaigns. He has the Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations and Philippine Liberation Ribbons. He was granted his honorable discharge on October 27, 1945, at the Separation Center at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas, after four and one-half years of faithful and unselfish service to his country.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Allen J. Borne

② Henry Everak Borne

③ Andrew Borne

④ Leonce C. Borne

⑤ Charles William Wall

⑥ Richard Louis Wall

⑦ Alex Wilson Wall

⑧ James Thomas Wall

⑨ John Ogden Mayhall

⑩ Ambrose Davis Mayhall

⑪ Donald Joseph Mayhall

⑫ Curtis Elmo Hudson

⑬ Robert Christie Tullier

⑭ Robert Aston Bean

⑮ Henry Jackson Chaney

⑯ Louis Edward Chandler

⑰ John Carroll Kleinpeter

⑱ William John Harelson

⑲ Joseph Edward Harelson

⑳ Willie V. Murphy, Jr.

① ALLEN J. BORNE, MM 2/C, U. S. Navy

He is the son of Mrs. Jane Borne and husband of Mrs. Irene McKoin Borne of Baton Rouge, La. He attended the Catholic High School in Baton Rouge and was employed as a construction worker before being inducted on June 20, 1943, at San Diego, Cal. After finishing his boot training he sailed for the Hawaiian Islands on Nov. 2, 1943, and served at New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Admiralty Islands and China. For two and a half years MM 2/C Borne served his country and received his discharge Jan. 10, 1946, at New Orleans, La.

② HENRY EVERAK BORNE, MM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Henry Everak Borne was born Oct. 28, 1915, and attended schools in Baton Rouge, La. He was inducted on Feb. 18, 1944, at New Orleans, La., and assigned to the U. S. Navy. After receiving his boot training at Great Lakes, Ill., he embarked for New Guinea and served in the Dutch East Indies, Admiralty Islands and the Philippines. MaM 3/C Borne served his country loyally and unselfishly for more than two years before receiving his discharge on March 1, 1946, at New Orleans, La. He is the son of Mrs. Jane Borne, Baton Rouge, La.

③ ANDREW BORNE, MM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Jane Borne of Baton Rouge, La., was born Dec. 26, 1910. After completing his schooling, he was employed for several years as a pressman at the State Times and Morning Advocate. On Aug. 25, 1943, he was inducted at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., and assigned to the U. S. Navy Seabees. He received training at Camp Endicott, Davisville, R. I., Camp Lee, Stephenson, Quoddy Village, Me., and Camp Rousseau, Port Huneme, Cal. On June 9, 1944, he sailed for Pearl Harbor and was given assignments at Iroquois Point, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, Guam, Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan. He received his discharge Nov. 19, 1945, at New Orleans, La.

④ LEONCE C. BORNE, Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Mrs. Belle Humphrey Borne and son of Mrs. Jane Borne of Baton Rouge, La., was born August 29, 1913. He attended Catholic High School and was employed as a printer before being inducted on Oct. 5, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, La. He was assigned to the Air Corps and received his basic training at Keesler Field, Miss. He embarked for England on November 23, 1943, and saw action in the Campaigns for Normandy, Northern France, Central Germany and Offensive over Europe. Corporal Borne holds two Unit Citations. He served three years unselfishly and on Nov. 20, 1945, received his discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑤ CHARLES WILLIAM WALL, Lt. (jg), U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Thomas Wall of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Lula Egan Wall. He was born June 18, 1922. Wall attended Catholic High School and La. State University. He entered the service June 21, 1943, and was assigned to Ft. Schuyler, N. Y., for training. He departed July 18, 1944, for submarine base, Pearl Harbor, and was a Torpedo and Gunnery Officer aboard the USS Haddock. He participated in the fighting of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. After more than two years of faithful service to his country he was discharged Feb. 15, 1946.

⑥ RICHARD LOUIS WALL, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Thomas Wall of Baton Rouge, La., he was born April 29, 1925, and attended Catholic High School and La. State University. Entering the service July 16, 1943, he received training at Miami Beach, Fla., St. Louis, Mo., Amarillo, Texas, and Memphis, Tenn. Wall served as Flight Engineer on routine flights of air evacuation in the Pacific from June, 1944, until February, 1946, making stops at Honolulu, Johnston Island, Guam, Saipan, Okinawa and Tokyo.

⑦ ALEX WILSON WALL, Capt., U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Thomas Wall of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Dec. 20, 1919. Wall attended Catholic High School and La. State University. He entered the service Feb. 20, 1942, and received training at Jacksonville, Fla., Quantico, Va., Ft. Monmouth, N. J., and Camp Elliott, Cal. Captain Wall departed Sept. 17, 1943, for overseas and served at Pearl Harbor as Communication Officer, at Johnston Island as Communication Officer, Anti-Aircraft Bn., and Kauai, T. H., and the Marshall Islands.

⑧ JAMES THOMAS WALL, U. S. Army

Son of James Thomas Wall, Sr., of Shreveport, La., and husband of Lola Meriwether Wall, he was born Dec. 21, 1918, and attended Louisiana State University. Entering the armed forces July 6, 1941, he was assigned to Corsicana, Texas, Randolph Field, Texas, Brooks Field, Texas, and Barksdale Field, La., for training. He departed July 8, 1942, for overseas as a B-24 Pilot and participated in the fighting of Attu and Kiska. Wall is the holder of the Air Medal and Distinguished Flying Cross. He is still serving with the Army Air Force. He is the father of James Thomas Wall III.

⑨ JOHN OGDEN MAYHALL, Lt., U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Ella B. Mayhall of Baton Rouge, La., he was born July 4, 1922, and attended St. Gabriel High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the service April 17, 1943, he was assigned to Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md., where he attended Ordnance OCS. He was then sent to Rochester Ord. Dist., N. Y., as Ordnance Supply Officer. He departed Oct. 18, 1945, for Japan where he spent 10 months with the Army of Occupation as Ordnance Supply Officer with 823 Ord. Base Depot. Lieutenant Mayhall was discharged Sept. 17, 1946.

⑩ AMBROSE DAVIS MAYHALL, Pharmacist's Mate, 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Ella B. Mayhall of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Dec. 21, 1912, and attended St. James High School. Entering the U. S. Navy Oct. 14, 1942, Mayhall was assigned to the Naval Air Station at New Orleans, La., for training. He also trained at Portsmouth, Va., and Gulfport, Miss. He departed July 28, 1945, for Iceland. Mayhall was attached to Atlantic Service Fleet and made trips to Iceland, Newfoundland, Trinidad, Puerto Rico, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Bermuda. He is the holder of the European Theater Ribbon, American Defense Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal.

⑪ DONALD JOSEPH MAYHALL, Capt., U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Ella B. Mayhall of Baton Rouge, La., he was born July 24, 1918, and attended St. Gabriel High School and Louisiana State University. He entered the service March 15, 1941, and received training at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., Chicago Medical Depot and Camp Lee, Va. Departing Oct. 18, 1943, for overseas, Captain

Mayhall served as Base Petroleum Officer on New Guinea, Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, and Manila. He is the holder of the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in Hollandia, D. N. G. After more than four years of faithful service to his country, he was discharged May 20, 1946, at Ft. Meade, Md.

⑫ CURTIS ELMO HUDSON, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William B. Hudson and husband of Mary Tullier Hudson of Baton Rouge, La., he was born August 8, 1923, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Spencer Business College. Entering the Army Air Forces August 2, 1943, Hudson received training at Amarillo, Texas, Harlingen, Texas, and Ft. Myers, Fla. Sergeant Hudson departed July 1, 1944, for overseas as a trained Aerial Gunner. He participated in the bitter fighting of the Rome-Arno, Northern France, Southern France, Northern Apennines, Rhineland and Air Combat, Balkans Campaigns. This gallant soldier was awarded the Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Sept. 25, 1945.

⑬ ROBERT CHRISTIE TULLIER, Cpl., U. S. Army

Son of John Hilary Tullier and Mrs. Mary Rogers of Baton Rouge, La., he was born August 8, 1922, and attended Baton Rouge High School. Tullier entered the armed forces Nov. 22, 1942, and was assigned to Ft. Riley, Kan., and Camp Ibis, Cal. He was sent overseas August 20, 1944, as an infantryman and participated in the bitter fighting of the Battle of the Bulge and the Rhineland Campaign. Corporal Tullier was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal, the American Theater Medal and the Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He received the Purple Heart Dec. 18, 1944, in the European Area. Corporal Tullier was a prisoner of war from Dec. 18, 1944, until March 29, 1945, when he was liberated by the 6th Armored Division. Corporal Tullier was discharged Nov. 30, 1945.

⑭ ROBERT ASTON BEAN, Cpl., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Bean and husband of Betty Tullier Bean of Baton Rouge, La., he was born July 3, 1922, and attended Gorham High School. Bean entered the armed forces November, 1942, at Fort Devens, Mass., and later received training at Fort Riley, Kan., Camp Ibis, Cal., and Camp Polk, La. Os a trained machine gunner infantryman, Corporal Bean departed Aug. 20, 1944, for the European Theater where he participated in the Battle of the Bulge and the Rhineland Campaign. He is the holder of the Combat Infantryman Badge, American Theater Ribbon, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, the Victory Medal and Purple Heart. Corporal Bean was captured Dec. 18, 1944, at Luxembourg and was liberated March 29, 1945, by the 6th Armored Division. After more than two years of gallant and meritorious service to his country he was discharged Nov. 30, 1945.

⑮ HENRY JACKSON CHANEY, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert W. Chaney of Pride, La., was born Dec. 17, 1926. He attended Pride High School and followed farming before entering the service Feb. 25, 1944, at Baker, La. He was assigned to the infantry and received his basic training at Camp Fannin, Texas. On Nov. 22, 1944, he embarked for Germany where he saw action in Campaigns for Rhine River and Central Europe. Sergeant Chaney holds the Bronze Star Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, two battle stars and the Good Conduct Medal. At the time of this writing, Sergeant Chaney is still in service.

⑯ LOUIS EDWARD CHANDLER, Pvt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Chandler of Baker, La., and husband of Mrs. Elizabeth Chaney Chandler, was born August 1, 1915. After finishing his schooling he was employed by the Standard Oil Company. On Dec. 15, 1942, he was inducted into the Army at New Orleans, La., and was assigned to the Infantry. Private Chandler was sent to Camp Roberts, Cal., for basic training and it was from Camp Roberts, Cal., that he received his discharge.

⑰ JOHN CARROLL KLEINPETER, BM 2/C, U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Mrs. Lela H. Kleinpeter and husband of Hazel Harelson Kleinpeter of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Nov. 3, 1907, and attended Catholic High School. Prior to his services with the Coast Guard, John was employed with the Standard Oil Company of Louisiana. He entered the service Sept. 14, 1942, and was assigned to Camp Harahan, N. O., Panama City, Fla., Shell Island and Mobile, Ala. After more than two years of faithful service to his country he was discharged August 30, 1945. He is the father of Carolyn, Shirley and Michael.

⑱ WILLIAM JOHN HARELSON, MM 1/C, U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Harelson of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Erin Ory, he was born Feb. 23, 1921, and attended Catholic High School. Harelson entered the service Sept. 14, 1942, and was assigned to Camp Harahan, N. O., Boston, Mass., Mobile, Ala., and North Atlantic Patrol on USS Groton. After more than three years of faithful service to his country he was discharged Dec. 26, 1945.

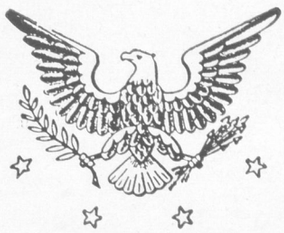
⑲ JOSEPH EDWARD HARELSON, T/Sgt., U. S. Army

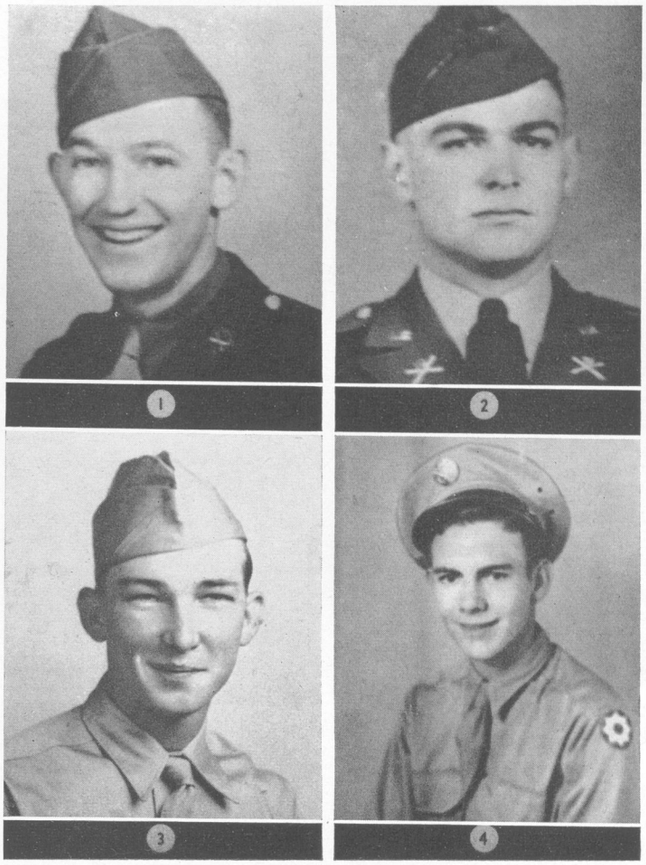
Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Harelson of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Sept. 10, 1923, and attended Catholic High School and Louisiana Teachers' College. Entering the service Feb. 19, 1943, Sergeant Harelson was assigned to Camp McCall and Camp Polk. As a member of the 11th Airborne Para-Glider Infantry, he departed May 1, 1944, for New Guinea and participated in the fighting at Leyte, Battle of Manila, and Luzon Campaign. He is the holder of the Bronze Arrowhead and Bronze Star. After three years of meritorious service Sergeant Harelson was discharged Dec. 18, 1945.

⑳ WILLIE V. MURPHY, JR., PFC, U. S. Army

Son of W. V. Murphy, Sr., and husband of Vera A. Murphy of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Dec. 24, 1916, and attended Pineville School. Prior to his services with the U. S. Army, Murphy was a process operator for Standard Oil Company. Entering the armed forces July 18, 1945, at Camp Chaffee, Ark., he was later assigned to Mather Field, Cal., as a heavy duty operator, and Bangor, Maine, as a heavy duty fireman.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





① Lawrence Camille Richard

S/Sgt., Field Artillery, AUS

Son of Joseph Camille and Mary Cummins Richard, 602 Arlington Avenue, Baton Rouge. He was born November 12, 1921, and attended Baton Rouge High School and LSU. He was a clerk in the Louisiana State Department of Finance prior to entering the U. S. Army in the Artillery July 7, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned to Camp Roberts, Calif., for infantry basic and to Fort Benning, Ga., for parachute school. At Camp Toccoa, Ga., he served with the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, and at Camp Van Dorn, Miss., with the 863rd Field Artillery Battalion, 63rd Infantry Division, as wire sergeant. Embarking January 5, 1945, for France, he served in Alsace-Lorraine and Germany as wire sergeant and forward observer. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in the performance of duty in action, and World War II Victory Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge February 5, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

② Joseph Cummins Richard

Major, Field Artillery, AUS

Husband of Sarah Elizabeth Richard, 810 Ferris, Lawton, Okla., and son of Joseph Camille and Mary Cummins Richard, 602 Arlington Avenue, Baton Rouge. He was born August 6, 1917, and was a student at LSU prior to entering the Field Artillery at Fort Benning, Ga., on August 1, 1940. He served as battery executive at Fort Benning, then went to Fort Sill, Okla., as battery commander, Battalion S-3, and instructor in tactics at the Field Artillery School. He served at Fort Jackson, S. C., as battalion liaison officer. He served as an instructor throughout his period of active duty with the Field Artillery, and has the Army Commendation Ribbon for meritorious performance of duty. Major Richard was granted his discharge on a basis of physical disability on June 29, 1946, at Fort Sill, Okla.

③ Henry Karl Black

Private, Infantry

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Buren W. Black, 4651 Clayton Drive, Baton Rouge. He was born January 28, 1925, and attended North Highlands School. He was a mechanic for International Harvester Company, Baton Rouge. On May 20, 1943, he entered the Army of the United States in the Infantry at Camp Beauregard, and was assigned to Camp Roberts, Calif., for training. Embarking November 22, 1943, for Brisbane, Australia, he served in New Guinea, Netherlands East Indies, and Leyte. He was in combat at Saidor, Aitape, Morotai and Leyte. On November 10, 1944, he left Morotai, landing on Leyte Island, Central Philippines, on November 14, 1944. He was killed on Leyte near Pinamopoan on November 22, 1944, while in action with the 32nd Infantry Division, 126th Infantry Regiment, Company K. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for the wounds in combat which cost his life on Leyte, the Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with a Bronze Star for the Leyte Campaign, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

④ William H. Hodges

Private, U. S. Army

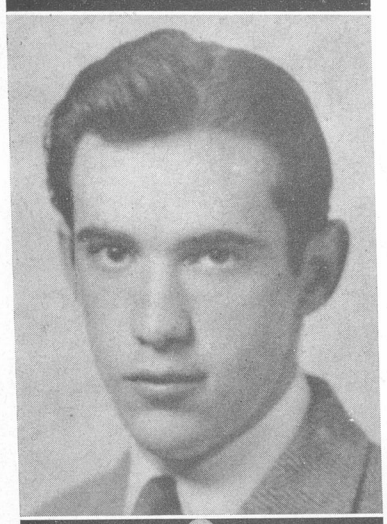
Son of John T. and Annabel Hodges, 645 "B" Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born January 22, 1925, attended Hollywood School of Baton Rouge, and Port Allen High School. He was employed by Stone and Webster Engineering Company prior to entering the service. He was inducted into the Medical Corps March 23, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, and received his training at Camp Gruber, Okla., at the Station Hospital, and at Camp Reynolds, Pa. On June 16, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served with the Combat Infantry (29th Division, 116th Infantry, Ninth Army) in France, and was killed in action August 27, 1944. The Purple Heart and the Presidential Citation were posthumously awarded December 2, 1944.



① BARRY EARNS EDMONSON

PFC, U. S. Army

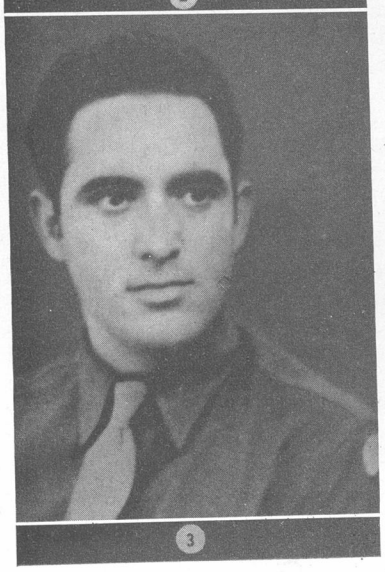
Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Earns Edmonson of Baton Rouge, La., he was born May 8, 1919, and attended Shady Grove School. Edmonson entered the Armed Forces September 9, 1941, and received training at Camp Barkley, Texas, and Camp Wolters, Texas. He was later sent to Fort Devens, Mass., Pine Camp, N. Y., and Camp Pickett, Va. PFC Edmonson was sent overseas as a Ranger with the 45th Division and participated in the bitter fighting at Sicily, Salerno and Naples. This gallant soldier was killed in action on an Italian battlefield October 11, 1943. The Purple Heart was posthumously awarded.



② JAMES CAMILE EDMONSON

Coxswain, U. S. Seabees

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Earns Edmonson of Baton Rouge, La., he was born December 6, 1925. He attended school at Shady Grove, La. Entering the U. S. Navy May 27, 1944, at Baton Rouge, La., he was later sent to Camp Wallace, Texas, and Camp Elliott, Calif. He departed September 11, 1944, for Hawaii, and was assigned to Seabee construction battalion on Guam. Edmonson remained on Guam 18 months. After two years of faithful service to his country he was discharged May 13, 1946, at New Orleans, La.



③ JEREMIAH M. EDMONSON

PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Earns Edmonson of Baton Rouge, La., he was born November 9, 1922, and attended school at Shady Grove. He entered the Army May 20, 1943, at Baton Rouge, La., and was assigned to Camp Wallace, Texas, Fort Bliss, Texas, and Fort Meade, Md. Edmonson departed June 6, 1944, for England, where he served for three months before being sent to Iceland for assignment with a Security Unit there. He was honorably discharged March 14, 1946, at Camp Beauregard, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① John Philip Elliott, Sr.

CB, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Annie Gibbs Elliott of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Mrs. Bernice Schexnayder Elliott, was born October 28, 1910. He attended Pacific High School, Pacific, Mo., and later was employed in construction work before being inducted into the Navy on October 1, 1942. Upon completion of his boot training he embarked the first time on January 4, 1943, for Florida Island, Solomon Group. He returned to the States on October 4, 1944, and sailed the second time on April 8, 1945, for Okinawa. He saw action in the Battle of the Solomons, Consolidation of the Central Solomons and the Battle of Okinawa, and holds the Good Conduct Medal. He was a member of the 34th U. S. Naval Construction Battalion from its beginning until after the war was won and never missed a watch or visited the sick bay. On October 3, 1945, he received his discharge at Camp Wallace, Texas.

② Harry James Simmons

T/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Clint E. Simmons and husband of Ruth M. Smith Simmons of Baton Rouge, La., he was born November 7, 1920. He attended Boyce High School. Entering the Army Air Force September 13, 1940, Simmons was assigned to Chanute Field, Ill., later being sent to McClellan Field, Calif. He attended the American School of Aircraft Instruments at Los Angeles, Calif. Sergeant Simmons trained for overseas at Selfridge Field, Mich. He departed September 17, 1942, for England as an aerial engineer on a C-47 which was named "D'Juanna Baby" for his daughter. He participated in the Tunisia, Sicily, Naples, Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, North Apennines, Po Valley and Air Combat Balkans Campaigns. He was awarded the Air Medal, European-Mediterranean Theater Medal, Good Conduct Medal and American Defense Medal. Sergeant Simmons was discharged September 3, 1945, and re-enlisted March 26, 1946, for three years.

③ Harry W. Kennedy

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Harry W. Kennedy was born March 26, 1922, and is the son of Mr. Roy A. Thibodeaux and husband of Mrs. Billie Kennedy of Baton Rouge, La. He attended Baton Rouge High School and later employed as a postal clerk prior to being inducted on November 11, 1942, at New Orleans, La. He was assigned to the U. S. Army Air Corps and received his basic training at Sheppard Field, Texas. After receiving further training in the states, he sailed for India on October 23, 1943, and was given assignments as a radio operator in India, Burma and China. Sergeant Kennedy saw action in the Campaigns in North Burma, Central Burma and Southern Burma. After more than three years of unselfish service to his country, he received his discharge on January 15, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

④ David D. Wilson

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Sergeant Wilson was born July 9, 1924, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. He entered the service on July 19, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, La., and was assigned to the infantry. After receiving his basic training he sailed on March 13, 1944, for England and Scotland where he received further training. He saw action in the Campaigns in Normandy, Northern France and Ardennes. Sergeant Wilson holds the Presidential Unit Citation and the Combat Infantry Badge. He received his discharge August 22, 1945, at Camp Butner, N. C., and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Thomas Wilson of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Mrs. Rosemary Gaudet Wilson.

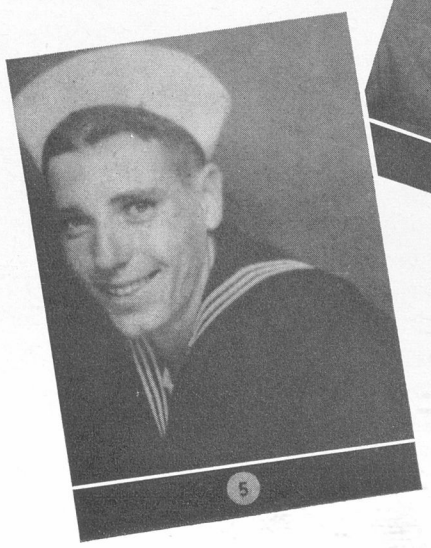
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA











① Frank Jerome Saia

S/Sgt., Army Air Force

Frank Jerome Saia, husband of Grace Antionette Saia, 149 S. Thirteenth Street, Baton Rouge, La., was born July 21, 1921. He is the father of Rose Antionette Saia. He attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University, and prior to entering the service was an electrician. He was inducted into the service September 21, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, La., and from there was sent to Keesler Field. Later he was transferred to Camp Livingston, Fort Bliss, Camp Chaffee, Ark., and Camp Polk. While in the Air Corps he served as an aerial gunner and a physical instructor. After more than three years of unselfish service he was honorably discharged Nov. 10, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Ben Saia of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

② Sam L. Saia

Private, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben L. Saia of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Aug. 23, 1913, and attended Convention Street and Junior High School. Prior to his services with the U. S. Army Saia was a telegraph operator. Entering the armed forces May 20, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Wheeler, Ga., for training, later being sent to Ft. Ord, Calif. He departed Oct. 23, 1942, with the 169th Infantry Regiment for the Southwest Pacific and participated in the bitter fighting at Russell Island, Solomon Islands, New Georgia and Munda Island. This gallant boy gave his life while fighting at Munda Island. He was the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with five Stars, Infantry Combat Badge, the Purple Heart and Presidential Citation.



③ Joseph Saia

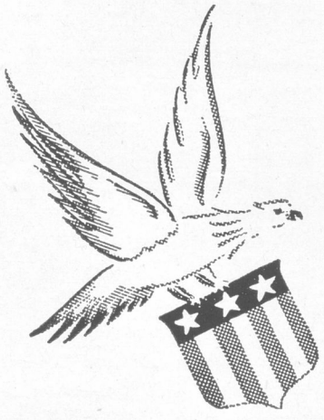
Private, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben L. Saia of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Aug. 13, 1915, and attended Convention Street School. Entering the service May 15, 1942, Saia was assigned to the Infantry and received training at Camp Shelby, Miss., and Ft. Ord, Calif. He departed Oct. 23, 1942, for overseas and participated in the bitter fighting of the Russell Islands, Solomon Islands, New Georgia, and gave his life during the battle of Munda Island. He was awarded a Presidential Citation, Good Conduct Medal, Infantry Combat Badge and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with five Stars. The Purple Heart was posthumously awarded Aug. 10, 1943.

④ Russell Roy Saia

Private, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben L. Saia of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Carrie Saia, he was born Aug. 9, 1919. Saia attended Baton Rouge High School. Entering the U. S. Army Oct. 12, 1944, at Baton Rouge, La., he received Infantry training at Camp Chaffee, Ark., Camp Robinson, Ark., and Camp Livingston, La. Saia is the holder of the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon and Expert Rifle Badge. He was discharged Nov. 26, 1945, at Camp Claiborne, La. He is the father of Russell Roy, Jr., and Carolyn Jean Saia.



⑤ Benny A. Saia

S 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Saia of Baton Rouge, La., he was born June 16, 1927, and attended Convention Junior High School, Catholic High and Baton Rouge High Schools. Entering the U. S. Navy April 14, 1945, he was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for training, later being sent to U. S. Naval Repair Base at New Orleans, La. Saia was assigned to the U. S. S. Mindanao and served in China and Japan. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, China-Japanese Occupation Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon and Victory Medal. After faithfully serving his country for more than a year he was discharged Aug. 3, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA


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② Gerald Wayne Sides

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Alvin Leroy Sides and Nettie Craig Sides of Baton Rouge, La. Gerald attended Central High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the service March 13, 1945, he was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., later being sent to Camp Parks, Calif., for overseas training. He departed October 6, 1945, for Pearl Harbor, where he awaited shipping orders to Guam. There he was assigned to the 301st Naval Construction Battalion. Leaving Guam February 11, 1946, Sides landed on Manus Island where he served until June 26, 1946. He was discharged July 18, 1946.

③ Henry C. Moore

MoMM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Moore of Floydada, Texas, and husband of Lena Moore of Baton Rouge, La., he was born February 18, 1923. Moore attended Floydada High School. Entering the service February 21, 1943, he was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for training, later being sent to Hemphill Diesel School at Los Angeles, Calif. He departed June 12, 1945, for overseas, serving aboard the USS Acontius and USS Mobjack. Moore was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon and Victory Medal. After faithfully serving his country for more than three years he was discharged December 10, 1946.

① Charles G. Crum

U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert L. Crum of 5506 Prescott Lane, Baton Rouge, La. He was born August 20, 1922, and is a graduate of Istrouma High School. He entered the Armed Forces in 1940, and participated in the Louisiana and North Carolina Maneuvers. Departing in 1942 for England, he served with the 156th Infantry Division. Charles served on guard duty in Paris, Rennes, Cherbourg Peninsula, and Mons, Belgium, guarding German prisoners. He received his honorable discharge October 16, 1945.

④ Joseph S. McConathy

Gunner's Mate 3/C, U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Mrs. Loretta H. McConathy of Baton Rouge, La., he was born November 20, 1921. McConathy attended Reeves (La.) and Elizabeth High Schools. Entering the service August 3, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Harahan, La., later being sent to Morgan City, La. He departed May 13, 1944, for the Pacific and served as gunner's mate aboard the supply ship FS 172, carrying supplies to combat areas in New Guinea and the Philippine Islands. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Stars, American Theater Ribbon and Good Conduct Ribbon. After more than three years of faithful service to his country he was discharged November 8, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① James Warren Humphreys

② Malcolm Day Humphreys

③ Kenneth Wayne Williams

④ Floyd Eugene (Gene) Williams

⑤ William W. Cutrer, Jr.

⑥ Howard Webb Cutrer

⑦ Edward G. Cutrer

⑧ Harley Sinclair Ebey

⑨ Jack Chandler

⑩ Robert Edward Chandler

⑪ Sybil Chandler

⑫ William James Knox

⑬ James Louis Carpenter

⑭ West Haldeman Carpenter, Jr.

⑮ Joe Brown Carpenter

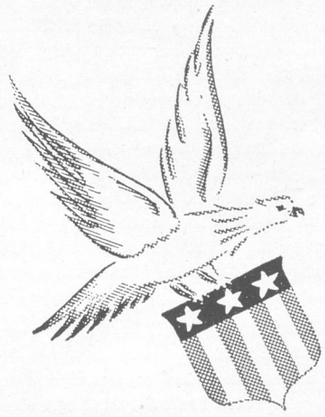
⑯ Charlie F. Carpenter

⑰ Harvey Dean Williams

⑱ Rupert Paul Williams

⑲ John B. Lambert

⑳ Alfred L. Lambert





① **JAMES WARREN HUMPHREYS,**
Master Tec/Sgt., USMC

Husband of Frances Marion Baldwin Humphreys, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Noah Simeon Humphreys. He was born July 10, 1922, and attended North Highlands School, Istrouma High School and L. S. U. On Nov. 10, 1942, he entered the U. S. Marine Corps and went to Camp Kidd, Balboa Park, San Diego, Cal., and the Marine Corps Base, San Diego. He attended Torpedo School at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Ill., and Destroyer Base, San Diego, and embarked Sept. 20, 1943, for New Caledonia. He served in Ordnance at Espiritu Santo (New Hebrides), Guadalcanal, Munda, and Bougainville, on Luzon, Philippine Islands, as Ordnance Chief on Bougainville and Luzon. He was in combat in the defense of Piva Yoke, Bismarck Archipelago, Consolidation of the Northern Solomons, Bougainville, the Russells, and Lingayen Gulf Assault Landing, Luzon. He has the Presidential Unit Citation Badge, and served at Cherry Point, N. C., until honorably discharged.

② **MALCOLM DAY HUMPHREYS, Tec/Sgt., Army of U. S.**

Husband of Anna Blanche Humphreys, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Noah S. Humphreys of Baton Rouge. He was born April 7, 1918, and attended North Highlands School and Istrouma High School. He worked with Esso Laboratories, Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, La. Division. On March 13, 1944, he entered the Army and went from Camp Beauregard to Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md. (Ordnance Branch), and Fort Belvoir, Va., for combat engineer training. At Camp Gordon, Ga., he joined the 28th Infantry Regiment, 8th Division, with which he served in Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany. Embarking Jan. 29, 1944, he fought in the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe and has the European Theater Ribbon with three bronze Campaign Stars, the Bronze Star Medal for heroic and meritorious achievement in action, the Good Conduct Medal and Combat Infantry Badge.

③ **KENNETH WAYNE WILLIAMS,**
Corporal, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Eugene Williams, Baton Rouge. He was born July 30, 1925, and attended Southside School, El Dorado, Ark., Plaquemine High School, and L. S. U. He enlisted in the U. S. Marine Corps on Sept. 22, 1943, at New Orleans and was assigned to the Marine Corps Base at San Diego, Cal., for boot training. He also served at the Marine Corps Base, Camp Elliott, San Diego, and was assigned to Combat Intelligence School at San Diego. On Feb. 6, 1944, he embarked for Pearl Harbor, assigned to an Amphibious Reconnaissance Battalion, Fleet Marine Force, in the Pacific Area. He was in combat in the Battle of Okinawa March 26, 1945, to July 26, 1945, and has the Navy Unit Citation, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with one Campaign Star, and American Theater Ribbon. He was honorably discharged Feb. 2, 1946, at Bainbridge, Md.

④ **FLOYD EUGENE (GENE) WILLIAMS,**
1st Lieut., Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Eugene Williams, Baton Rouge. He was born May 21, 1923, and attended Southside School, El Dorado, Ark., and Plaquemine High School where he was chosen best-dressed man for two years. He was employed at an aluminum plant at Baton Rouge and was sporting goods manager at Dalton's, Baton Rouge, prior to entering the Army Air Forces. From Sheppard Field, Texas, he went to Santa Ana Air Base and Merced AAB, Cal.; Williams Field, Chandler, Ariz., and Malden Air Base, Malden, Mo. He was first pilot on a C-47 aircraft, assigned to the First Troop Carrier Command at Malden. He was killed in the performance of duty on Jan. 16, 1945, during a routine flight. All members of the crew died together, leaving no one to tell what happened.

⑤ **WILLIAM W. CUTRER, JR., PFC, QMC, Air Forces**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William W. Cutrer, Baton Rouge. He was born June 4, 1922, and is a graduate of Istrouma High School. He attended Acadia Baptist Academy and was with Y. and M. V. Railroad prior to his enlistment in the Army on Feb. 6, 1942, at Camp Livingston. He served at Camp Lee, Va., MacDill Field, Tampa, Fla., and Hattiesburg, Miss., operating a truck. On Jan. 6, 1943, he went to England. He served hauling Army personnel, supplies, and equipment in England, France, Germany, and Australia, and was in combat in the Campaign of the Rhineland. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Campaign Star, and World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby on Dec. 4, 1945.

⑥ **HOWARD WEBB CUTRER, Fireman 1/C, USNR**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William W. Cutrer, 2794 Linwood Avenue, Baton Rouge. He was born Nov. 8, 1927, and attended Istrouma High School. He was with Yazoo and Miss. Valley Railroad prior to his induction in the U. S. Naval Reserve on May 18, 1945, at New Orleans. He enlisted in the Regular Navy in September, 1945. From the United States Naval Training Center at San Diego, Cal., he went to Camp Elliott, San Diego, Cal., and was serving with the USS Jeffers DMS 27. He was awarded World War II Victory Ribbon and was continuing to serve with the U. S. Navy.

⑦ **EDWARD G. CUTRER, Sergeant, SC, AAF**

Husband of Jane H. Cutrer of Crosby, Miss., and father of Mary Frances Cutrer. He was born Oct. 13, 1923, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William W. Cutrer, Baton Rouge. He attended Istrouma High School and Army Service Schools, Shreveport Trades School (Radio), Louisiana Polytechnic Institute (Pre-Radar), Philco Training School (Radar), Scott Field, Ill. (Radio Operating), and Radar School at Boca Raton, Fla. He was with Y. and M. V. Railroad prior to his induction in the Army Nov. 30, 1942, at Shreveport and served with the Signal Corps and Army Air Forces at Camp Lee, Va., New Orleans Army Air Field, Sheppard Field, Texas (air cadet), Scott Field, Ill., Boca Raton, Fla., and Bergstrom Field, Texas, where he was assigned to duty as an instructor in Radar. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was honorably discharged Feb. 24, 1946, at Camp Shelby, and re-enlisted in the Army Air Forces.

⑧ **HARLEY SINCLAIR EBY, Tec/5, U. S. Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ebey of Baker. He was born Sept. 25, 1925, and attended Pride, Central, and Istrouma High Schools. He was an employee of Greenwell Springs Hospital prior to entering the Military Service (Tank Destroyers) on Dec. 20, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He went to Fort Knox, Ky., Camp Chaffee, Ark., and Camp Kilmer, N. J., port of embarkation, with the Armored Forces and departed Oct. 22, 1944, for Liverpool, England, from which he went on to serve in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He fought in the Campaigns of Normandy, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations, and was granted an honorable discharge to re-enlist in the Regular Army at Gieselwerder, Germany, on Oct. 29, 1945.

⑨ **JACK CHANDLER, FC 3/C, USNR**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Chandler, Baton Rouge. He was born April 20, 1926, and attended Istrouma High School. He was with Ill. Central Railway prior to entering the U. S. Naval Reserve Nov. 11, 1943, at New Orleans. After training at the U. S. Naval Training Station and the Destroyer Base at San Diego, Cal., he was assigned to the USS Chaffee DE 230, embarking May 9, 1944, for 20 months of sea duty. He was in combat at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, at Zamboanga, Davao, and Polloc Harbor, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, and at Balikpapan, Borneo. He was torpedoed by the enemy in the Battle for Lingayen Gulf. He has the American Theater, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one bronze star, and the Victory Medal. He re-enlisted in the U. S. Navy March 5, 1946, at San Francisco. He also served with Personnel and Training Command, New Orleans.

⑩ **ROBERT EDWARD CHANDLER,**
Coxswain (L) V-6, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Chandler, Baton Rouge. He was born August 13, 1924, and entered the U. S. Naval Reserve June 16, 1942, at Baton Rouge. From the U. S. Naval Training Station,

San Diego, Cal., he was assigned to the USS Hammondsport which served as a transport of food, supplies, and materiel to the Pacific and Asiatic warfront, operating to many points in the Pacific Area where troops were stationed. Coxswain Chandler embarked for sea duty in mid-August, 1942, and served in that capacity throughout the Pacific Area and after the cessation of hostilities. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at the Naval Personnel Separation Center, New Orleans, on Nov. 11, 1945.

⑪ SYBIL CHANDLER, Sergeant, WAC

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Chandler, 727 Maximillian Street, Baton Rouge. She was born April 20, 1921, and attended Istrouma High School. Prior to entering military service she was secretary to the commanding officer, DeRidder Army Air Base. On Sept. 29, 1943, she entered the Women's Army Corps at Savannah, Ga., and was assigned to Daytona Beach, Fla., for basic training. She served at MacDill Field, Fla., as stenographer, A-3 Office, and went to Oglethorpe, Ga., in August, 1944, for overseas training. On Sept. 21 she embarked for Hollandia, New Guinea. She was stenographer in A-1 (Personnel) of Far East Air Forces in Hollandia and at Leyte and Manila in the Philippines. She was in the Campaigns of New Guinea, the Southern Philippines, and Luzon, and has the American Theater and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbons (three bronze stars), the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one bronze star, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Ribbon. She was honorably discharged Nov. 26, 1945, at Fort Sam Houston, Tex.

⑫ WILLIAM JAMES KNOX, Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Nelson Knox. He was born July 20, 1920, attended Baton Rouge High School, and was a mechanic's helper prior to his induction Aug. 5, 1942. He received his training at Fort Sill, Okla., and Camp Barkley, Tex., after which he was assigned to Ordnance Parts and Equipment. On Aug. 21, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater where he served in England and France. Corporal Knox has the Unit Citation, the European Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Jan. 16, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑬ JAMES LOUIS CARPENTER, Tec/5, Air Forces

Son of West Haldeman and Lula Fearson Carpenter. He was born Feb. 3, 1921, and attended Central High School. He was engaged in construction work prior to entering the Army Air Forces Aug. 3, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. From St. Petersburg, Fla., where he received training, he was assigned to Daniel Field, Ga., and also served at Macon and Bainbridge. From Hubert Smart Airfield, Ga., he embarked from Fort Myles Standish, Mass., on Dec. 6, 1943, for the European Theater of Operations, where he worked in chemical warfare at Ipswich and Norwich, with a company which served in an Air Forces Squadron loading fire and smoke bombs and securing bombs on planes for the take-off. He has the Presidential Unit Citation Badge, the European Theater of Operations Ribbon, and Good Conduct Medal, and was honorably discharged Nov. 7, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑭ WEST HALDEMAN CARPENTER, JR., Corporal, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of West Haldeman and Lula Fearson Carpenter, Baker, and husband of Ada Eddy. He attended Central High School and entered the U. S. Marine Corps Oct. 7, 1938, at New Orleans. From Paris Island, S. C., where he was assigned to training at the Marine Base, he went to Philadelphia, Pa., for further training, and embarked April 1, 1940, for Balboa, Canal Zone, on guard and security duty at the Panama Canal. Returning to the States, he was granted an honorable discharge (medical) at Camp LeJeune, New River, N. C., on Jan. 14, 1944, after more than five years of faithful and unselfish service with the U. S. Marine Corps.

⑮ JOE BROWN CARPENTER, PFC, Transportation Corps

Son of West Haldeman and Lula Fearson Carpenter, and husband of Alma Lee Carpenter of Baker. He was born Nov. 30, 1914, and attended Central High School. He served with Inland Waterways Department and as a pipefitter with the Standard Oil Company prior to entering the Transportation Corps Jan. 12, 1944, at Camp Beauregard, and was assigned to military duty at Camp Plauche, New Orleans, Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla., and Camp Myles Standish, Mass., port of embarkation. Going to the European Theater of Operations Aug. 29, 1944, he received combat training in England and served as a shipfitter with the Transportation Corps at Cherbourg, Northern France, and Marseilles, Southern France. He was in combat in the Rhineland and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on Oct. 15, 1945.

⑯ CHARLIE F. CARPENTER, Private, QMC, Army

Son of West Haldeman and Lula Fearson Carpenter, Baker. He was born Jan. 19, 1927, and attended Central High School. He was a laboratory technician for Copolmyer Corporation prior to his induction March 28, 1945, at New Orleans in the Quartermaster Corps. He was assigned to duty at Camp Chaffee, Ark., Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., Ford Ord, Cal., Camp Haan, Cal., Camp Fannin, Texas, and Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He went overseas Sept. 18, 1945, going to the South Pacific, and served on Luzon in the Philippine Islands in construction work. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and was granted his honorable discharge at Manila on Luzon, Philippine Islands, Oct. 31, 1945, to enable him to re-enlist in the regular U. S. Army.

⑰ HARVEY DEAN WILLIAMS, United States Marines

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Harvey Williams, Baton Rouge. He was born Sept. 27, 1919, and attended Fairfield and Istrouma High Schools and L. S. U. On Feb. 11, 1943, he entered the U. S. Marine Corps at Paris Island, S. C., and trained there prior to going to the Marine Base at Quantico, Va. (Officers Training School) and the Naval Base at Washington, D. C., for special training in aerial photography and observation. He was assigned to duty at Camp Pendleton, Cal., as a platoon leader with the 13th Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 5th Marine Division. On Sept. 19, 1944, he embarked for Hawaii and was stationed at Pearl Harbor, assigned to duty on board the USS Santa Fe as aerial observation officer. He fought in the Marine Invasion of Iwo Jima, and has the Distinguished Flying Cross, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Purple Heart, awarded posthumously. This gallant Marine officer died in action against the enemy after he was wounded Feb. 20, 1945, in the Marine Invasion of Iwo Jima.

⑱ RUPERT PAUL WILLIAMS, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Husband of Billie E. Williams, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Harvey Williams, Baton Rouge. He attended Fairfield and Istrouma High Schools and entered the Army Nov. 25, 1940. He served as squad leader and instructor in basic training at Camp Blanding, Fla., and was on Coastal Patrol duty at Fort Fisher, N. C. He served at Camp Bowie, Texas, as squad leader and instructor in infantry basic. He went to England Sept. 25, 1942, and was assigned to duty with a quartermaster and assault training center for 22 months prior to going to France as a member of the Military Police and Coastal Patrol. He served in Belgium with prisoner of war enclosures. He fought in the campaign of Northern France and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Ribbon, American Theater and American Defense Service Ribbons, and Expert Infantry Badge. He re-enlisted for one year.

⑲ JOHN B. LAMBERT, Army Air Corps

He was born July 21, 1920, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Lambert of Baywood, La. He attended the St. Amant High School and was engaged in farming prior to entering the armed forces. He entered the Army Air Corps July 28, 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑳ ALFRED L. LAMBERT, U. S. Army

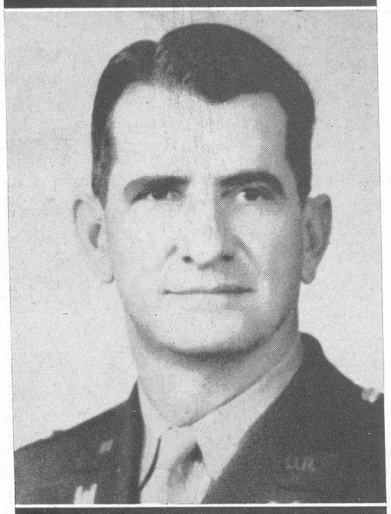
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. Lambert of Baywood, La. He was born Sept. 12, 1922, and attended the St. Amant High School. Prior to entering the armed forces, he was engaged in farming. He entered the U. S. Army Dec. 28, 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



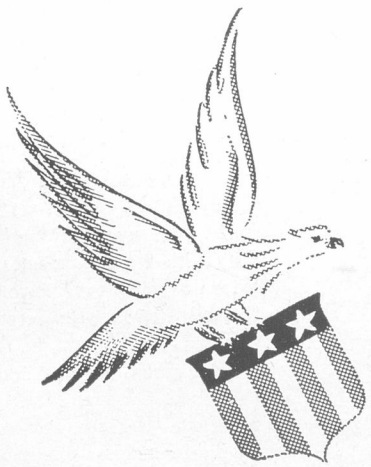
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① Douglas Newton Emanuel

Storekeeper 3/C, USN

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Erastus Emanuel, 2302 Eugene Street, Baton Rouge. He was born June 29, 1927, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University where he was a student at the time of his induction March 17, 1945, into the United States Naval Reserve at New Orleans. He was sent to the United States Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., as a recruit trainee and embarked for Pearl Harbor on September 10, 1945. He served with Commander Carrier Division 24 as a jeep operator and storekeeper and with Pacific Fleet Commissioned Officers' Mess as bookkeeper. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on July 23, 1946.

② Victor E. Emanuel

Captain, CE, AUS

Husband of Grace M. Emanuel, 2302 Eugene Street, Baton Rouge, and father of John Victor and Douglas Newton Emanuel. He was born September 19, 1900, the son of the late Samuel E. and Ida C. Emanuel, and entered the Army in the Corps of Engineers on December 28, 1942, at Miami, Fla. He served with the U. S. Corps of Engineers at Miami in the Florida District and with the office of the Divison Engineer, South Atlantic Divison, Atlanta, Ga. His assignments in military duty included the construction of offshore air bases, taking him at times into the islands to the south of the continental United States and South America. Captain Emanuel was granted his release to inactive duty status on October 18, 1944, at Atlanta, Ga.

③ John Victor Emanuel

Storekeeper 3/C, USN

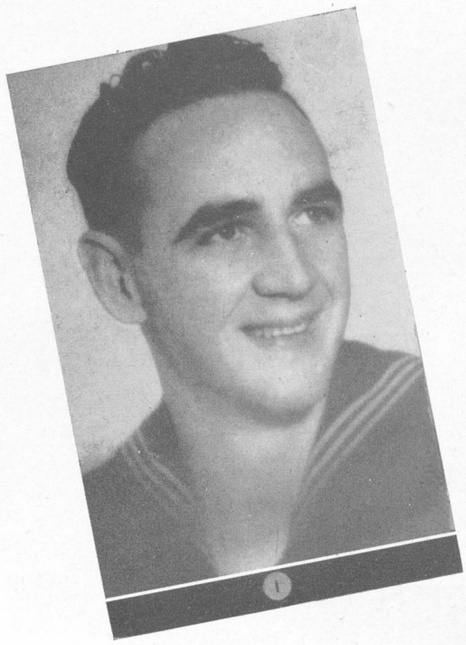
Son of Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Emanuel, 2302 Eugene Street, Baton Rouge. He was born April 10, 1926, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University where he was a student up to the time of his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on May 22, 1944, at Camp Wallace, Texas. After recruit training at Camp Wallace, Texas, he was assigned to duty there as instructor in close order drill, bayonet and hand grenade use. He went to Camp Elliott, San Diego, Calif., and from there embarked September 20, 1944, for the Admiralty Islands. He was assigned to duty in the Admiralties in the Supply Depot and served also for 14 months in the Supply Depot at Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea. He served on temporary assignments in the Philippine Islands with supply units and in China with a Surplus Disposal Unit, being on duty for a short time in Hong Kong, then four months in Shanghai, from which city he returned to the States April 9, 1946. He was in combat in the Campaign of New Guinea and has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and Philippine Liberation Ribbon, World War II Victory Ribbon and the China Service Ribbon when authorized. He was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on May 23, 1946,

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Gilbert L. Nash, Jr.

SF 2/C, USN Seabees

Husband of Norma Jean Holley Nash, 2205 Riley Street, Baton Rouge. He was born May 6, 1924, and is the son of Mrs. Gilbert L. Nash, 5105 Almonaster Street, Baton Rouge. He is a graduate of Istrouma High School and Baton Rouge Trades School and was with Delta Shipbuilding Company prior to entering the United States Construction Battalions on July 1, 1943, at New Orleans. He received boot training and advanced training at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., and Camp Endicott, Davisville, Rhode Island. In November, 1944, he embarked for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations where he served with the Seabees on Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, on Guam, and the Home Islands of Japan. He was assigned to duty as a photographer. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on December 13, 1945.

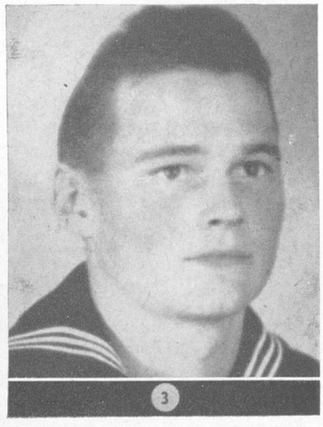


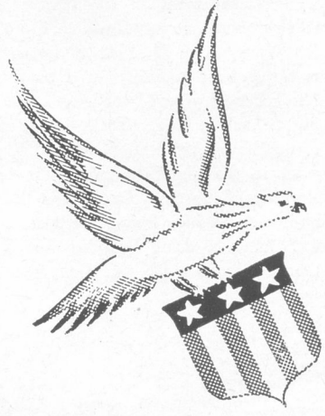
② Percy S. Hunt

Carpenter's Mate 2/C, U. S. Navy

He was born August 23, 1923. He was inducted into the Construction Battalion on January 12, 1943, and received his boot training at Camp Allen, Norfolk, Va. His advanced training he received at Camp Perry, Williamsburg, Va., and at Port Hueneme, Calif. On April 18, 1943, he sailed on the Blome Fontaine, and served in the Pacific Theater at Fiji Islands, New Hebrides, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Guadalcanal, and the Russells. After completing 31 months overseas service, he sailed on the Bosque for the United States. After a 30-day furlough, he was given an honorable discharge at the Naval Station in New Orleans on January 5, 1946.







③ Talbert Wesley Miller

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

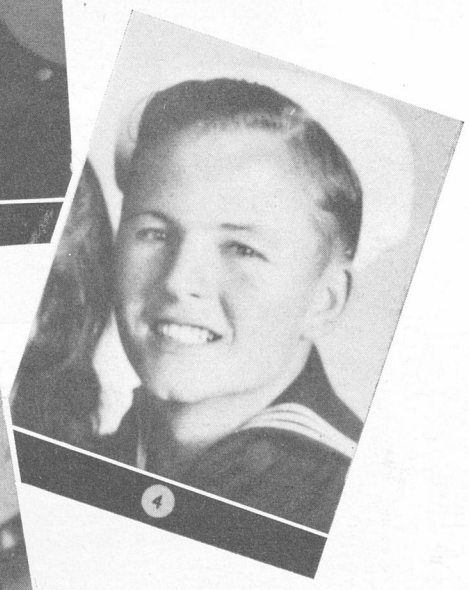
Husband of Dorothy R. Miller of 403 South Twentieth Street, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Talbert D. Miller of Route 4, Baton Rouge. He attended Central High School and was with Louisiana Creamery, Inc., prior to entering the United States Navy August 9, 1944, at New Orleans. He embarked for Pearl Harbor March 6, 1945, and served aboard ship throughout the Pacific area. He fought in the naval engagement of the Invasion of Okinawa and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Campaign Star and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. Returning to the States, Seaman First Class Miller was granted his honorable discharge at the Naval Personnel Separation Center, New Orleans, on June 3, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA











① Fred J. Devall

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Alice Brown Devall and husband of Thelma Turner Devall, both of Baton Rouge, La., he was born July 13, 1915, and attended Istrouma High School. Entering the armed forces April 22, 1943, Devall was assigned to Camp Lee, Va., for basic training, later being sent to State Teachers' College, West Chester, Pa., for Army Administrative School. He departed Oct. 14, 1943 for North Africa, where he served with the Army Postal Service. Sergeant Devall participated in the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign. He is the holder of the Victory and Good Conduct Medals. After more than two years of faithful service to his country, Sergeant Devall was discharged Jan. 12, 1946. He is the father of Judith Dayle Devall.

② Ruby Lucille Turner

Yeoman 1/C, U. S. Navy, Waves

Daughter of Arthur Marion Turner and Mattie Belle Turner of Baton Rouge, La., she was born Jan. 23, 1918. Ruby attended Wyandotte and Istrouma Grade Schools, and is a graduate of Baker High Shcool. She attended Louisiana State University and Baton Rouge Business College. Prior to her enlistment in the Waves she was a civil service employee at Harding Field. Ruby entered the Waves June 16, 1943, at Baton Rouge, La., and received boot training at Hunter College, N. Y. She received yeoman training at U. S. Naval Training School at Cedar Falls, Iowa, and was assigned to the Naval Air Station, Miami, Fla., doing yeoman work in the assembly and repair department. Later she served in the Operations Division of Headquarters, Eighth Naval District at New Orleans, La. After faithfully serving her country for more than two years Ruby was discharged Jan. 29, 1946.

③ Earl Edwin Turner

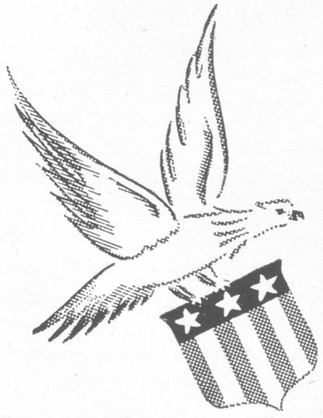
Lt. Col., U. S. Army Chemical Warfare Service

Son of Arthur Marion and Mattie Belle Turner and husband of Tennie King Turner, he was born July 14, 1913. Graduating from Istrouma High School at Baton Rouge, La., he attended Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge and Armour Institute of Technology at Chicago, Ill. Prior to his service with the Army he was a chemical engineer with the Louisiana Division of the Standard Oil Company of N. J. Turner entered the service Feb. 5, 1941, at Camp Beauregard, La., where he served as Chemical Warfare Officer and Post Engineer Supply Officer. Colonel Turner was then sent to Washington, D. C., to serve as Chief of Storage Branch in the office of the Chief of Chemical Warfare Service. He is the holder of the American Defense Medal, American Campaign Medal and Victory Medal. He was reverted to inactive status March 19, 1946, and is now a member of the Army Reserve Corps.

④ Leo A. Turner

PhM 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Arthur Marion Turner and Mattie Belle Turner and husband of Edna Dixon Turner, he was born Sept. 12, 1924. Turner attended Istrouma High School and graduated from Baker High School. He attended Louisiana State University. Entering the U. S. Navy April 15, 1943, at New Orleans, La., Turner was sent to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif. He was later sent to Oceanside, Calif. He departed June 15, 1945, for the South Pacific. He served with a medical company, replacement battalion, transient center at Pearl Harbor. After more than three years of faithful service to his country he was discharged Jan. 7, 1946, at New Orleans, La.



⑤ Percy Eugene Turner

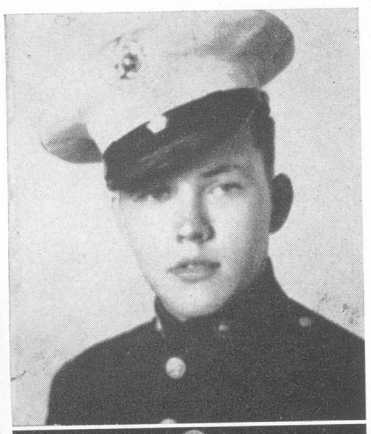
Yeoman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Born Jan. 8, 1911, the son of Arthur Marion Turner and Mattie Belle Turner, he attended Istrouma High School and Baton Rouge Business College. Prior to his service with the U. S. Navy Percy was employed by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey at Baton Rouge, La. Entering the service Aug. 10, 1942, at New Orleans, La., he was assigned to the U. S. Naval Receiving Barracks at Shoemaker, Calif. He departed in August, 1944, for Midway Islands and served on Aircraft Carrier USS Langley, US AT Sea Pike, US AT Haleakala, at U. S. Naval Receiving Barracks, Pearl Harbor and U. S. Naval Operating Base and Naval Air Station on Midway Islands. Percy was awarded a letter of commendation from the commanding officer, US AT Sea Pike. After more than three years of faithful service to his country he was discharged Sept. 15, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA







① W. Floyd Williamson, Jr.

Ensign, United States Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Floyd Williamson, 2170 Tulip Street, Baton Rouge. He was born December 20, 1924, and attended Tulane University. He enlisted in the United States Navy on July 1, 1943, at New Orleans and was assigned to the V-12 Unit at Tulane University. He attended Asbury Park Premidshipman School in New Jersey and Midshipman School at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York. He was assigned to U. S. Naval Training School (Tactical Radar) at Hollywood, Florida, and served aboard the USS Guest DD 472. On March 19, 1945, he embarked for Pearl Harbor and served with the USS Guest with which he served in the Pacific area. Ensign Williamson was in combat against the enemy on Okinawa in the Ryukyus and served in the Occupation of Northern Japan with the North Pacific Forces. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, and the Victory Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge June 15, 1946, at Los Angeles, Calif.

② Edward Morton Davis

Lieutenant (jg), Navy

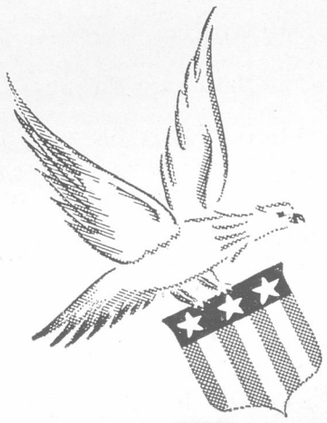
Husband of Stirling Bryan, 2618 Hundred Oaks, Baton Rouge, La. He was born January 20, 1916, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Morton Davis (both deceased), and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. He entered service May 26, 1943, and became an instructor in military training at Camp Peary, Va. He later did administrative work at the Naval Aircraft Factory, Philadelphia, before attending Harvard Supply Corps School, Cambridge, Mass. Lieutenant Davis began Pacific sea duty November 21, 1944, and served aboard supply ships for the Fleet with ports in the Philippines, New Zealand, Guam, Guadalcanal and other Pacific bases. He is credited with a battle star for the Philippine Campaign. Lieutenant Davis expected to be placed on inactive duty about March 15, 1946.

③ Daniel Gibson Carlock, Jr.

Private First Class, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Gibson Carlock, 2346 Hollywood Drive, Baton Rouge, La. He was born October 23, 1925, and attended Baton Rouge High School, and Louisiana State University. Inducted August 21, 1943, at New Orleans, he attended boot camp and Telephone School at the Marine Base, San Diego, Calif., then went to Artillery School at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and was then assigned to Camp Elliott, Calif. On March 28, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served at New Caledonia, Solomon Islands, Mariana Islands, and Ryukyus, with the Third Amphibious Corps, Communications Personnel. Private First Class Carlock participated in the campaigns at Guam and Okinawa. He was honorably discharged at Oceanside, Calif., on November 29, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

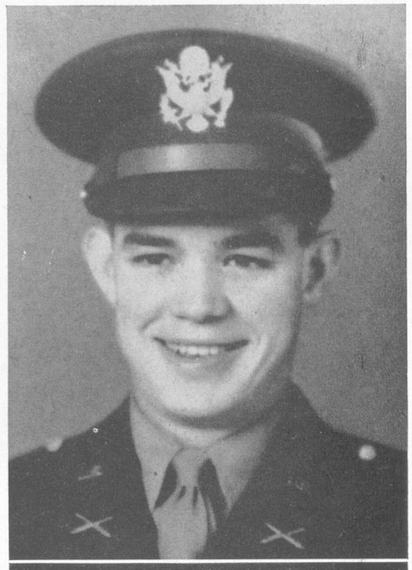




① Addison Humphrey Harelson

First Lieutenant, Air Forces

Husband of Elizabeth Jean Harelson, Route 2, Baton Rouge. He was born April 15, 1905, and is the son of Dr. and Mrs. William D. Harelson of East Baton Rouge Parish. He attended Seventh Ward High School, Baton Rouge Senior High School, and Louisiana State University. First Lieutenant Harelson was district maintenance superintendent with the Louisiana Highway Commission for six years. He served as a flight instructor with the Louisiana State University Flying School for two and one-half years. A member of the East Baton Rouge Parish Police Jury for 14 years, he was president of that body for four years. Entering the Army Air Forces on January 9, 1944, he was assigned to duty with the Office of Flying Safety at Winston-Salem, N. C. He served with the Army Flight Service at Memphis, Tenn., and was also stationed at the Army Air Base at Blackstone, Va. He was last assigned to the Air Technical Service Command, stationed at Middletown, Pa. He was granted his honorable discharge and entered the Officer Reserve Corps at Barksdale Field on October 11, 1945.



② James B. Todd, Jr.

First Lieutenant, FA, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Todd, 595 East Airport Avenue, Baton Rouge. He attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University, entering the Army of the United States April 6, 1943, at Baton Rouge. He served with the Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Okla., and Camp Maxey, Texas, going overseas to the Pacific area August 10, 1945, to the Philippine Islands where he served as liaison pilot with the 97th Field Artillery Battalion, and Division Artillery, 86th Division. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, September 4, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Douglas Lewis Manship

② Charles Phelps Manship, Jr.

③ A. Thomas Montagnino

④ Joseph J. Montagnino

⑤ Dewey J. Thoms

⑥ Louise V. Thoms Talbot

⑦ Ventress E. Thoms, Jr.

⑧ Henry J. Thoms

⑨ Henry Huck Mahier

⑩ Jo Marguerite Coullard

⑪ John Burke Coullard

⑫ Stanford Rayne, Jr.

⑬ Massey Bernice Long

⑭ Gloria Juanita Long

⑮ Calvin Clyde Long

⑯ Clara Griffon

⑰ Vincent Joseph Cashio

⑱ Guy Victor Cashio

⑲ Paul Clarence Cashio

⑳ Joseph Kirby

① DOUGLAS LEWIS MANSHIP, Captain, Army Air Forces

Husband of Lucie-Jane French, 2731 Broussard Street, Baton Rouge, and father of Douglas L. Manship, Jr. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Manship of Baton Rouge. Captain Manship attended Sewanee Military Academy, Tennessee, Louisiana State University, the University of Colorado, and Heidelberg University, Germany, prior to entering the Army Air Forces in April, 1942. He received basic training at Sheppard Field, Texas, and attended armament school at Lowry Field, Denver, Col.; cadet training in armament with the 77th Reconnaissance Group, and served as armament officer at Alamo AAF, Texas, Abilene AAB, Texas, and Birmingham, Ala. (93rd Reconnaissance Wing.) He also served as armament officer with the 10th Reconnaissance Group. He embarked for England in January, 1943, and served in England, France, and Germany, as armament officer, Headquarters Commandant, 10th Reconnaissance Group. He served through the Air Offensive Over Europe, Normandy, France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes, and Southern Germany. He has the Distinguished Unit Citation.

② CHARLES PHELPS MANSHIP, JR., Lieut.., U. S. Naval Reserve

Husband of Paula Garvey Manship, 402 Oakwood Drive, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Manship of Baton Rouge. He attended Louisiana State University, the University of Missouri, and Harvard University and was in newspaper and radio work prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve April 4, 1942, at New Orleans. Lieutenant Manship served as Public Relations Officer, 8th Naval District, and as Harbor Control Officer, 12th Naval District. On March 23, 1943, he embarked for Panama, Canal Zone, where he was Officer in Charge at the Harbor Control Post, Atlantic, Canal Zone. He reverted to inactive duty Sept. 11, 1945, at San Francisco, Cal.

③ A. THOMAS MONTAGNINO, Captain, MC, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Mildred Gaynell Haarala Montagnino, 1306 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, and father of A. Thomas Montagnino, Jr., and Margaret Gaynell Montagnino. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Montagnino of Baton Rouge, and attended Louisiana State University 1932-1936 and Louisiana State Medical School 1936-1940, receiving his M.D. degree. He was a practicing physician prior to entering the Medical Corps Sept. 28, 1941, at Fort Bragg, N. C., where he served as Ward Surgeon, Station Hospital. He served in the same capacity at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., and embarked Nov. 25, 1943, for Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. He served at North Sector General (219th) Hospital on Oahu as ward surgeon and Schofield Barracks as attending surgeon, assigned to duty in Hawaii throughout the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign. He also has the American Defense Service Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, and Victory Medal. He was released from active duty Oct. 26, 1945.

④ JOSEPH J. MONTAGNINO, Sergeant, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Montagnino, 1306 Florida Street, Baton Rouge. He attended Baton Rouge High School, Louisiana State University, and Baton Rouge Business College and was an interviewer with the United States Employment Service prior to entering the Army Air Forces August 3, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. Sergeant Montagnino served as a radio mechanic at Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho, and at Walker Army Air Field, Walker, Kan. On February 12, 1944, he embarked for Piardoba, India, where he served as radio mechanic, going to Tinian in the Marianas in the same capacity. He fought in the Air Offensive over Japan, Palembang in Sumatra, the India-Burma Campaign, China Campaign, Central Burma Campaign, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with five bronze Campaign Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation Badge, the American Theater, Victory, and Good Conduct Medals. He was honorably discharged at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Dec. 10, 1945.

⑤ DEWEY J. THOMS, Army Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ventress Earl Thoms of Scotlandville. He was born May 10, 1928, and attended Baker High School and Louisiana State University to the time of his induction in the Army Air Forces Jan. 24, 1946, at Camp Chaffee, Ark. He served at Camp Chaffee and at San Antonio, Texas, and was continuing to serve in the continental United States after the cessation of hostilities on the world battlefronts, with the Army Air Forces.

⑥ LOUISE V. THOMS TALBOT, 1st. Lt., Army Nurse Corps

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ventress Earl Thoms of Scotlandville. She is the wife of Patrick J. Talbot of Scotlandville. She attended Baker High School and Our Lady of the Lake School of Nursing. She was a registered nurse prior to entering the Army Nurses Corps May 15, 1943, at Camp Livingston, where she also served at the Station Hospital. She was transferred to Borden General Hospital, Chickasha, Okla., on general duty. On Jan. 27, 1944, Lieutenant Talbot embarked for Australia. She served in Australia, Milne Bay in New Guinea, on Biak and Leyte, and in Manila. She was in combat in New Guinea, Luzon, and the Southern Philippines and has the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in Luzon from Feb. 9, 1945, to February 24, 1945, during Military operations. She has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star, and the Victory Medal. She was honorably discharged Feb. 23, 1946, at Fort Sam Houston.

⑦ VENTRESS E. THOMS, JR., Tec/3, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ventress Earl Thoms of Scotland. He was born Oct. 24, 1923, and attended Baker High School. He was engaged in construction work prior to entering the Army of the United States Feb. 24, 1943. He received infantry basic at Fort Knox, Ky., and was assigned to Surgical Technician School, Fort Benjamin Harrison. He took part in the Tennessee Maneuvers and served at Camp Carson, Col., and Fort Knox on general dispensary duty with the Medical Corps. On August 4, 1945, he embarked for Luzon and was stationed in Manila, Philippine Islands. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Victory Medal, and was discharged under the demobilization plan on his return to the States.

⑧ HENRY J. THOMS, United States Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ventress Earl Thoms of Scotlandville. He was born Dec. 23, 1926, and was engaged in construction work prior to entering the Army of the United States, Corps of Engineers, on Feb. 12, 1945, at Camp Chaffee, Ark. He was assigned to duty with the Combat Engineers at Camp Hood, Texas, and Fort Ord, Cal. He went overseas in October, 1945, and served on Luzon and in the city of Manila with the Combat Engineers. He has the Good Conduct Ribbon and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon. He was continuing to serve with the Army of Occupation in the Pacific. He is a graduate of Baker High School.

⑨ HENRY HUCK MAHIER, Seaman 1/C, (RM), USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Mahier of Baton Rouge. He was born July 19, 1926, and attended schools in Norman, Okla., Howell in East Baton Rouge Parish, University High School, and Louisiana State University. He entered the United States Naval Reserve July 10, 1944, at Baton Rouge. He was assigned for training to Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va. He also served at Bainbridge, Md., Boston, Mass. (R/S), Melville, R. I., and Lido Beach, Long Island, N. Y. He was continuing to serve with the United States Navy following the cessation of hostilities on the world battlefronts.

⑩ JO MARGUERITE COULLARD, Lieut. (sg), USNR

Daughter of Joseph Benjamin and Virginia DeJean Coullard, 3537 Evangeline Street, Baton Rouge. She was born Jan. 29, 1919, and

attended St. Joseph's Academy, Baton Rouge, and Louisiana State University. She worked as a professional librarian prior to induction in the United States Naval Reserve at New Orleans on Dec. 9, 1942. She was assigned to duty with the Office of Flag Secretary, Headquarters Eastern Sea Frontier, 90 Church Street, New York, N. Y., and at the Destroyer Officers' School, United States Naval Training Center, Norfolk, Va. Lieutenant Coullard received her honorable discharge at the United States Naval Separation Center (WR) at Memphis, Tenn., on Feb. 4, 1946.

⑪ JOHN BURKE COULLARD, Lieut. (jg), U. S. Navy

Son of Joseph Benjamin and Virginia DeJean Coullard, 3537 Evangeline Street, Baton Rouge. He was born May 3, 1922, and attended Catholic High School and Louisiana State University where he studied electrical engineering. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on March 22, 1943, he received advanced training in electronics at Harvard University and at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Lieutenant Coullard served on Project Manhattan, Oak Ridge, Tenn., and Brooklyn Navy Yard. He was attached to the United States Naval Electronics Maintenance School at Aiea Heights, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. He planned to continue service in the United States Navy (Regular).

⑫ STANFORD RAYNE, JR., Captain, CE, AUS

Husband of Helen David Rayne and father of Alan Christopher Rayne, Baton Rouge. He was born Oct. 20, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanford Rayne of Route 4, Baton Rouge. He attended University High School 1937-1938 and Louisiana State University 1938-1942. He entered the Corps of Engineers Sept. 16, 1942, and served at Camp Beauregard and at Camp Gruber, Okla. He attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Belvoir, Va., and was assigned to Camp Blanding, Fla., as operations and training officer with an Engineer Combat Battalion, serving in the same capacity and as platoon leader and intelligence and staff officer at Camp Van Dorn, Miss. On Jan. 5, 1945, he embarked for the European Theater of Operations. He served in France and Germany as intelligence and staff officer. He fought in the campaign of the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the Bronze Star Medal for heroic and meritorious achievement in action against the enemy. He was honorably placed on the inactive list effective May 10, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

⑬ MASSEY BERNICE LONG, Yeoman 2/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Long, 3210 Charles Street, Baton Rouge. He was born July 22, 1925, and attended Istrouma High School. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on June 16, 1943, at Baton Rouge, he went to the United States Naval Training Station at San Diego, the United States Naval Training and Distribution Center at Shoemaker, Cal., and United States Navy Yard, Puget Sound, Bremerton, Wash. On Sept. 21, 1943, he embarked for the South Pacific and served at the United States Naval Receiving Station, Pearl Harbor, T. H., and the USS Indiana BB 58. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with nine Campaign Stars, American Theater Medal, and Victory Medal and was in combat in the Campaigns of New Georgia, the Gilberts, the Marshalls, Truk, Sarawan, the Ponape Raid, the Marianas, the Southern Palaus, Iwo Jima, Okinawa Gunto, and all Third Fleet operations against Japan.

⑭ GLORIA JUANITA LONG, Yeoman 3/C, USN (Waves)

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Long, 3210 Charles Street. She was born Feb. 9, 1924, and attended Melville High School, having been a clerk-typist for Aluminum Ore Company prior to her induction in the United States Naval Reserve (Waves) on April 13, 1944, at Baton Rouge. From the United States Naval Training Station (WR), The Bronx, N. Y., she went to the Naval Training School at Oklahoma A. and M. College, Stillwater, Okla., and the United States Naval Training Station, Farragut, Idaho. She served at the Receiving Station, Seattle, Wash., and Thirteenth Naval District Headquarters, Seattle, Wash. She was honorably discharged April 17, 1946, at the NAS, Seattle.

⑮ CALVIN CLYDE LONG, MoMM 3/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Massey Long, 3210 Charles Street, Baton Rouge. He was born Sept. 14, 1927, and is a graduate of Istrouma High School. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on April 26, 1945, at New Orleans, he served at the United States Naval Training Station, San Diego, the Amphibious Training Base at Coronado, Cal., with USS LSM 284, USS LSM 80, USS LST 1010, and USS LSM 423. He embarked Nov. 17, 1945, for the Asiatic- Pacific Theater of Operations where he served in Japan, China, and the Philippines. He was granted his honorable discharge at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans, August 20, 1946.

⑯ CLARA GRIFFON, 1st Lieut., WAC

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Griffon, 544 Government Street, Baton Rouge. She attended Louisiana State University and Columbia University, New York City. She was a librarian prior to entering the Women's Army Corps in the Signal Corps in November, 1942, at Des Moines, Iowa. First Lieutenant Griffon served as an officer instructor in Army Administrative Schools in Daytona Beach, Florida, and Nacogdoches, Texas. She was assigned to duty in the Storage and Issue Agency of the Signal Corps as officer in charge of civil service personnel. She was granted her honorable discharge (medical) from the Women's Army Corps at Tuscaloosa, Ala., on Oct. 18, 1945.

⑰ VINCENT JOSEPH CASHIO, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Cashio of Baton Rouge, La. He was born Oct. 19, 1920. He attended the Baton Rouge High School prior to entering the armed forces. Vincent entered the United States Navy Oct. 19, 1943.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑱ GUY VICTOR CASHIO

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Cashio of Baton Rouge, La. He was born April 6, 1922, and is a graduate of the Catholic High School. Guy entered the armed forces Feb. 2, 1943.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑲ PAUL CLARENCE CASHIO, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

He was born Feb. 17, 1926, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Cashio of Baton Rouge, La. He received his education at Catholic High in Baton Rouge. Paul entered the United States Navy Feb. 7, 1944.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑳ JOSEPH KIRBY, MM 3/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar W. Kirby of Zachary. He was born Nov. 12, 1925, and is a graduate of Zachary High School. On Jan. 10, 1944, he entered the United States Naval Reserve at New Orleans, and was assigned to the United States Naval Training Station at Farragut, Idaho, going from there to Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Wash. He served with the Naval FFT, Tacoma, Wash., aboard the training ship Casablanca, aboard the USS Matanikau CVE 101, at the Navy Repair Base in San Diego, the Receiving Station in Algiers, the NRS at Norfolk, Va., aboard the USS Simpson DD 221, transferring to AG 97 for duty at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and the NAS Cuba. In July, 1944, he embarked from San Diego for Southwest Pacific with the USS Matanikau CVE 101, and on March 5, 1945, left on the USS Simpson DD 221 for duty in the North Atlantic. He has the American Theater, Asiatic-Pacific, European-African-Middle Eastern, and Victory Ribbons, and was granted his honorable discharge at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans, May 21, 1946.



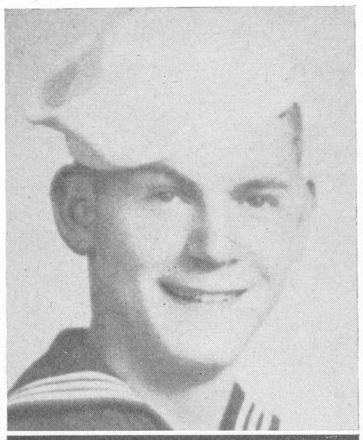


Lorenzo Alphonse Blouin

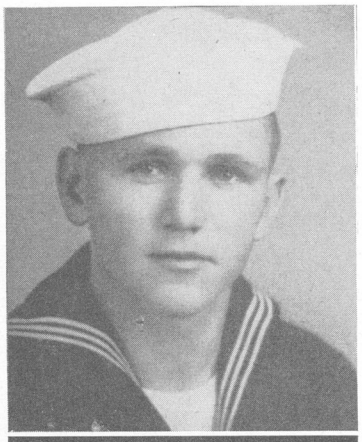
S/Sgt., Engineer Corps

Husband of Marge Spence, 2522 Main Street, Baton Rouge. He was born July 29, 1906, and was educated at St. Vincent's Academy. Prior to entering the service he worked as a manager in an entertainment club. Inducted at Camp Beauregard, La., December 14, 1942, later assignments took him to Plattsburg Barracks, N. Y., Camp Belvoir, Va., Fort Dix, N. J., in the capacity of mess sergeant. Leaving the United States November 13, 1943, he arrived in North Africa and later saw duty in England, France, Belgium and Germany. He fought through the battles of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and the Battle of Germany. With these decorations he also wears the Presidential Unit Citation. He received his honorable discharge October 15, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

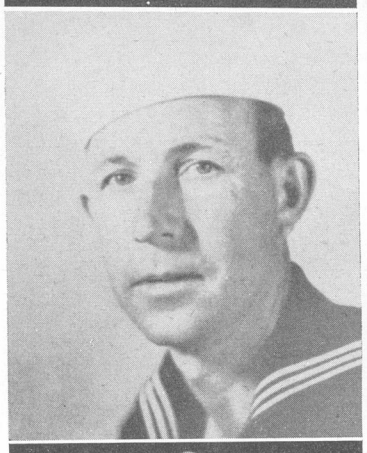
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① William B. Dupre

Radioman Third Class, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Dupre, 332 Spain Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born May 25, 1926, and attended Catholic High School and Louisiana Testing and Research Laboratory of Baton Rouge Trade School. Inducted April 18, 1944, at New Orleans, he received his boot training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif. He attended Los Angeles Radio School at Shoemaker, Calif., and Voice Procedure School at the Coronado (Calif.) Amphibious Training Base, and was then assigned to the USS Bowie, APA 137. On February 20, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he served at Eniwetok, Pearl Harbor, Lingayen Gulf, Manila, Guam, Ulithi, Saipan, Okinawa and Leyte. The campaign in which he participated was that at Okinawa. Radioman Dupre was honorably discharged at New Orleans on May 16, 1946.

② Albert M. Jones, Jr.

S 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Jones, Sr., of Baton Rouge, La. He was born November 16, 1926, and received his education at the public schools in Baton Rouge, La. Completing two years at Louisiana State University, he entered the U. S. Navy. He entered the Armed Forces November 27, 1944, and received his boot training at San Diego, Calif.

(N. M. I. A.)

③ Carl Edward Harrington

Gunner's Mate 2/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Pearl Foster Harrington and father of Carl Edward, Jr., Greenwell Springs, La. He was born July 13, 1911, attended East Fork High School and was an ironworker prior to entering the service. Inducted January 17, 1944, at New Orleans, he received his boot training at San Diego, Calif., and was then transferred to Small Craft Training Center, Terminal Island, Calif. He was then assigned to the minesweeper USS Control, and embarked for overseas on July 19, 1944. He served as a gunner on the ship in all parts of the Pacific, escorting convoys from island to island. Gunner's Mate Harrington was honorably discharged at New Orleans on November 27, 1945. He is the son of Gabriel Young and Angie Baham Harrington, Route 2, Magnolia, Miss. (both of them now deceased).

④ Floyd K. Pendarvis

FC 2/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Azalie O. Pendarvis, and father of Mayme Laura and Kenneth Manuel Pendarvis, 354 South 19th Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born May 26, 1924, and attended Walker High School and Baton Rouge Trade School. He was employed as an electrician prior to entering the service. Inducted January 10, 1943, at New Orleans, he received his training at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Ill.; Advance Naval Training Station, Seattle, Wash., and the Small Craft Training Center, Miami, Fla. On May 1, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater where he served in Sicily and North Africa. From there, he was sent to New Guinea and the Philippine Islands in the Pacific area. He was honorably discharged November 5, 1945, at New Orleans. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jones Pendarvis, Baton Rouge, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① John N. Browning

② Elmer R. Browning

③ Clyde L. Browning

④ Glynn L. Riffel

⑤ Vannie Manuel Valentine

⑥ Alvin John Valentine

⑦ Huey Lee Langley

⑧ Lawrence Langley

⑨ Earl J. Dowdy

⑩ Joseph M. Wilkinson, Jr.

⑪ Henry A. Devall

⑫ Boyd J. Devall

⑬ Claude Noel Dugas

⑭ Melvin Joseph Dugas

⑮ William Thomas Browning

⑯ Allen Lee Browning

⑰ Howard Lee Rube

⑱ William B. Bliss

⑲ Henry Barnard Bliss

⑳ Walter S. Bliss, Jr.



① JOHN N. BROWNING, Tec/Sgt., Air Forces

Husband of Carmen O. Browning, and son of Mrs. Addie M. Browning, Greenwell Springs. He was born July 22, 1918, and attended Central High School. He entered the Army Air Forces July 7, 1942, at New Orleans and served at Sheppard Field, Texas, Wendover Field, Utah, Sioux City Army Air Base, S. D. (airplane maintenance technician), and Camp Kilmer, N. J. Embarking in May, 1943, he went to Europe to serve in England and France as an aircraft maintenance technician, and served in the Campaigns of the Air Offensive over Europe, Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes, and Central Europe. He has the Good Conduct Medal, Unit Citation Ribbon, and European Theater Ribbon with six stars. He was discharged September 27, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

② ELMER R. BROWNING, PFC, Air Forces

Son of Mrs. Addie M. Browning, he was born July 21, 1922, and attended Central High School, working as an electrician apprentice to the time of his induction in the Army Air Forces Oct. 29, 1942, at New Orleans. He served at Truax Field, Madison, Wis., attending Code School, and at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, Mo. Embarking for the European Theater Nov. 18, 1943, he served in Sicily, Italy, Corsica, France, Germany, and Austria as radio operator and fought in the Campaigns of Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Northern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the American and European Theater Ribbons (six Campaign Stars), Victory and Good Conduct Medals, and was honorably discharged Nov. 13, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

③ CLYDE L. BROWNING, Tec/5, C of E, AUS

Husband of Audrey L. Browning, and son of Mrs. Addie M. Browning. He was born July 2, 1924, and attended Central High School, entering the Army in the Corps of Engineers July 1, 1943. He served at Camp Abbot, Ore., Pittsburg Replacement Depot, Cal., and Camp Myles Standish, Mass., going to Europe Feb. 27, 1944, to serve in England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany, assigned to duty as an automotive mechanic. He was in combat on Normandy Beachhead, the Campaign of Northern France, the Campaigns of Central Europe and the Rhineland and has the European Theater Ribbon with four bronze Campaign Stars, the Distinguished Unit Citation Badge, the Bronze Invasion Arrowhead for Normandy, and the Good Conduct and World War II Victory Medals. He was discharged Dec. 31, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

④ GLYNN L. RIFFEL, PFC, Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin O. Riffel, he was born Dec. 4, 1925, and attended Baton Rouge High School and L. S. U. Entering the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve on Aug. 21, 1943, at New Orleans, he served at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Cal., embarking Jan. 21, 1944, for Guadalcanal. He served on Tulagi, in the Marshall Islands, on Guam and Okinawa and was in combat in the Campaign for Guam in the Marianas Islands and for Okinawa in the Ryukyus Islands. He has the Navy Unit Citations Badge. Wounded in action against the enemy, he was awarded the Purple Heart at Pearl Harbor on June 28, 1945. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Great Lakes, Ill., on Dec. 10, 1945.

⑤ VANNIE MANUEL VALENTINE, Tec/5, FA, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Terrell Valentine, he was born May 13, 1925, and entered the Army of the U. S. Oct. 13, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. Assigned to duty with the Field Artillery branch of military service, he went to Fort Sill, Okla., for training, and served also at Fort Ord, Cal., and Camp Shanks, N. Y., from which he embarked for the European Theater Dec. 16, 1944, landing at Liverpool. He served in France, Germany, and Belguim and was in combat in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon (two stars), the Good Conduct and World War II Victory Ribbons. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on April 30, 1946.

⑥ ALVIN JOHN VALENTINE, Staff Sgt., Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Benton Valentine, he was born May 24, 1921, and attended Seventh Ward High School. He was an airplane mechanic, a B-25C specialist, and a millworker prior to entering the Army on July 8, 1942. He served at Sheppard Field, Texas, at North American Aviation, Inglewood, Cal., at Salina Army Air Base, Salina, Kan., Esler Field, Alexandria, at Laurel AAB, Miss., and Camp Stoneman, Cal., assigned to duty as an airplane maintenance technician. On Nov. 14, 1943, he embarked for Brisbane, Australia, and served in the same capacity at Port Moresby, Cusimo, and Aitape, New Guinea, at Biak, Netherlands East Indies, on Leyte, Mindoro, and Luzon in the Philippines, and on Ie Shima and Okinawa. He was in combat in the Air Offensive over Japan, the Bismarck Archipelago, the Southern Philippines, Luzon, and the Western Pacific. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon (six bronze Campaign Stars), Philippine Liberation Ribbon (two stars), Good Conduct and Victory Ribbons, American Theater Ribbon, one Service Stripe and three Overseas Service Bars.

⑦ HUEY LEE LANGLEY, Seaman 1/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Clifford Langley. He was born August 8, 1927, and attended Zachary High School and L. S. U. He was engaged in farming prior to his induction in the U. S. Naval Reserve at New Orleans on Aug. 7, 1945. Seaman First Class Langley trained at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Cal., and embarked from Shoemaker, Cal., on Feb. 7, 1946, for sea duty. He served at Yokosuka in Japan, Jensen in Korea, Shanghai, China, Colombo, Ceylon, and Bahrein, Arabia. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon, and was granted his honorable discharge on Aug. 16, 1946.

⑧ LAWRENCE LANGLEY, Seaman 1/C, USNR

Husband of Wilma Langley and son of Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Clifford Langley of Zachary. He was born Sept. 1, 1922, and attended Zachary High School. Inducted into the U. S. Coast Guard on October 2, 1942, at New Orleans, Seaman First Class Langley served at Coast Guard Stations at New Orleans, LaPorte, Texas, Panama City, Fla., Groton, Conn., Savannah, Ga., Norfolk, Va., Manhattan Beach, N. Y., and Camp Wallace, Texas. He served with the USS Annapolis PF 15, at Alameda, Calif., in Honolulu, at Norman, Okla., and at St. Louis, Mo. On Nov. 20, 1944, he embarked for sea duty, going to the Hawaiian Islands and serving aboard the USS Annapolis UF 15 in the Pacific Area. He has the American and Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbons and the Good Conduct Medal, and was discharged under the point system at St. Louis on Oct. 8, 1945.

⑨ EARL J. DOWDY, Chief Yeoman, USN

Husband of Willie Mae (Henry) Dowdy, and is the son of Mrs. Katherine Cecelia Dowdy. He attended St. Mary's Parochial School and St. Mary's Academy, San Antonio, and was with Standard Oil of New Jersey, Louisiana Division, as office manager prior to entering the U. S. Navy June 9, 1942. At Camp Allen, Norfolk, Va., Camp Bradford at Norfolk, Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif., and Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, Calif., he was chief clerk handling records of enlisted and officer personnel. On Aug. 18, 1942, he embarked with the 13th Naval Construction Battalion for the Pacific Area where he served at the Naval Air Station, Dutch Harbor, Alaska, at Pearl Harbor, and on Tinian (Marianas) as chief clerk, personnel office. He served at Okinawa (Ryukyus) as chief clerk, office of commanding general. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with campaign stars for Tinian and Okinawa, a Naval Unit Commendation, the Good Conduct and American Theater Ribbons.

⑩ JOSEPH M. WILKINSON, JR., Seaman First Class, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Joseph Dowdy. He was born Aug. 20, 1928, and attended Baton Rouge Senior High School prior to entering the U. S. Navy at New Orleans on Nov. 9, 1943. From the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Cal., he embarked Jan. 3, 1944, for the Pacific Area, where he served with the USS Petrof Bay CVE 80 at Pearl Harbor, Guam, New Guinea, Iwo Jima, the Philippines, Formosa, Okinawa, Luzon, the Marshall Islands, Mindoro, Palau, Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas, and Leyte Gulf. He was in combat in the naval operations on Palau, at Leyte Gulf, Samar Island, Mindoro, and Luzon in the Philippines, Formosa, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. He has the Silver Star Medal for gallantry and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and Philippine Liberation Ribbons with Campaign Stars, and the American Theater Ribbon. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on Oct. 3, 1945.

⑪ **HENRY A. DEVALL, Sgt., U. S. Army**

Husband of Rita M. Devall and son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Devall. He was born Jan. 5, 1921. He entered the Military Service with the 128th Ordnance Maintenance Battalion, 6th Armored Division, on March 22, 1942, at Camp Livingston. He served at Camp Chaffee, Ark., Camp Cooke, Cal., Camp Livingston, and in the California (Desert) Maneuvers prior to going overseas. He served from Feb. 13, 1944, to Oct. 5, 1945, in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany, fighting with the 6th Armored Division in Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with five bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Meritorious Service Unit Award. He was discharged at Camp Shelby Oct. 19, 1945.

⑫ **BOYD J. DEVALL, Tec/4, U. S. Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Devall, he was born April 19, 1925, and attended Central High School prior to enlisting in the Army of the U. S. in Ordnance July 8, 1943, at New Orleans. He was assigned to Camp Barkeley, Texas, for training and duty prior to embarking Dec. 14, 1943, for the European Theater of Operations where he served in Scotland, England and Ireland, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany, assigned to duty as a cook. Sergeant Devall fought in Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes, and Central Europe, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the Meritorious Service Unit Award. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby Feb. 19, 1946.

⑬ **CLAUDE NOEL DUGAS, United States Army**

Son of Mr. Adam N. Dugas, he was born Dec. 25, 1919, and attended Denham Springs High School and Istrouma High School. He entered the Army of the U. S. in the Infantry, and was assigned to Camp Chaffee, Ark., for infantry training, serving also at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark., and at Fort Ord, Calif., Port of Embarkation. Private Dugas served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations with Headquarters Company, Second Battalion, 127th Infantry, and was continuing to serve with the Army of Occupation after the cessation of hostilities and the capitulation of the enemy.

⑭ **MELVIN JOSEPH DUGAS, United States Army**

Son of Mr. Adam N. Dugas, he was born March 18, 1913, and attended Belle Rose High School and Ninth Ward High School. He was with the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, Louisiana Division, prior to entering the Army in the Infantry on June 10, 1942, at Camp Livingston. He served at Camp Pickett, Va., Camp Blanding, Fla., Camp Forrest, Tenn., and Camp Laguna, Ariz. He served in the Florida, Tennessee and Arizona Maneuvers assigned to a machine gun section with G Company, 2nd Battalion, 79th Infantry. He served within the continental U. S. until after the cessation of hostilities on the world battlefronts.

⑮ **WILLIAM THOMAS BROWNING, Tec/4, Signal Corps, AUS**

Son of Mrs. Lovie Kirby Browning, he attended Pride High School and L. S. U. and entered the Army March 7, 1942, assigned to duty with the Signal Corps at Camp Crowder, Mo. Sgt. Browning served at Camp Shelby and in the Louisiana Maneuvers. He went to Camp Carrabelle, Fla., for amphibious training and returned to Camp Livingston and Camp Polk where he was attached to Third Army Directors Headquarters in the 1943 Maneuvers as Distribution Clerk. On Dec. 31, 1943, from Camp Livingston he embarked from New Orleans for Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, and served there as a Message Center and cryptographic clerk. Sergeant Browning was in combat in New Guinea, Leyte, and Luzon with the 38th Signal Company, 38th (Cyclone) Division, famed Avengers of Bataan. He also served as a cryptographer on Leyte and Luzon. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, American Defense Service Ribbon, Good Conduct, and Victory Medals.

⑯ **ALLEN LEE BROWNING, S/Sgt., Air Forces**

Son of Mrs. Lovie Kirby Browning, he was born Sept. 24, 1905, and attended Pride High School. He was a clerk prior to entering the Army Air Forces July 7, 1942, at New Orleans. From Camp Beauregard he went to Sheppard Field, Texas, for basic training and to Scott Field, Ill., and Boca Raton, Fla., for radio training. From Salt Lake City Air Base and Camp Kilmer, N. J., he embarked April 29, 1943, for North Africa and served in North Africa and Italy as a Radar mechanic IFF. With the 99th Bombardment Group and the 301st Bombardment Group, he served in the Air Offensive over Europe, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Normandy, Northern France, Southern France, the North Apennines, the Po Valley, and the Balkan Air Combat. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with 12 Campaign Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster, and Good Conduct Medal. He served also with the 301st Bombardment Group (redeployment) and 52nd Fighter Group, 15th Air Force.

⑰ **HOWARD LEE RUBE, Corporal, Air Corps**

Husband of Mrs. Beverly Price Rube, and father of Ronald Lee and Leslie Madison Rube. Born May 18, 1915, Cpl. Rube attended Baton Rouge High School and L. S. U. Before entering the service on Feb. 8, 1943, he worked for the Standard Oil Co. Basic training at St. Petersburg, Fla., and chemical warfare school at Tampa were followed by assignments in Orlando, Fla., at Barksdale Field, Shreveport, at Ontario Army Air Base, Ontario, Calif., and March Field, Calif. Sailing on Dec. 17, 1944, from Ft. Lawton, Washington, he served in the Marianas Islands as liaison N.C.O. at the port of Tinian as to ammunition handling and routing to bomb dumps. For service in the Western Pacific campaign, the air offensive on Japan, and the Mandated Islands air offensive, he was awarded the Western Pacific Campaign Star and the Good Conduct Medal. On Nov. 25, 1945, he was honorably discharged at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

⑱ **WILLIAM B. BLISS, Boilermaker 3/C, USN**

Husband of Natalie M. Bliss and father of William B. Bliss, Jr., he was born May 17, 1914, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Bliss. He attended Central High School. He was an employee of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, Louisiana division. He entered the U. S. Navy March 24, 1944, at Baton Rouge and was assigned to the USS Conner DD 582. Embarking May 1, 1944, for the Marshall Islands, he fought in the naval action of the Invasion of the Mariana Islands, Okinawa, Formosa, Borneo, and the Philippines. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with four bronze Campaign Stars and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two bronze stars. He was granted his honorable discharge Jan. 4, 1946, in New Orleans.

⑲ **HENRY BARNARD BLISS, Captain, Air Forces**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Bliss, he attended Central High School and L. S. U. and was with Consolidated Chemical Industries at Baton Rouge and Little Rock, Ark., prior to entering the Army Air Forces Feb. 11, 1943, at Camp Robinson, Ark. He trained at Kirtland Field, Albuquerque, N. M., and was assigned to Army Air Forces Officer Candidate School, Miami Beach, Fla. He also attended AAF Intelligence School at Harrisburg, Pa. On Jan. 10, 1944, he embarked for China and was stationed at 14th Air Force Bases at Kunming, Kweilin, Liuchow, Suichwan, and Peishiyi. He was assigned to the 18th Photo Intelligence Detachment, 14th Air Force, as photo interpreter. Captain Bliss has the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious performance of duty in action and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three bronze Campaign Stars. He reverted to inactive status as a captain in the Officers' Reserve Corps March 31, 1946.

⑳ **WALTER S. BLISS, JR., Sergeant, Air Forces**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter S. Bliss, he was born Oct. 29, 1920, and attended Central High School and L. S. U. Entering the Army Air Forces Aug. 17, 1942, he was assigned from Camp Beauregard to Blythe Army Air Base, Muroc Army Air Base, San Bernardino Army Air Base, and Kelly Field, Texas, as a machinist in aircraft. He embarked for Guam Oct. 10, 1944, and was stationed at the air depot at Harmon Field on Guam as an aircraft machinist. He served in the Campaign of the Western Pacific and has the Meritorious Unit Award for achievement in action. He also has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and World stars. He was granted his honorable discharge Jan. 4, 1946, in at Camp Shelby, Miss.

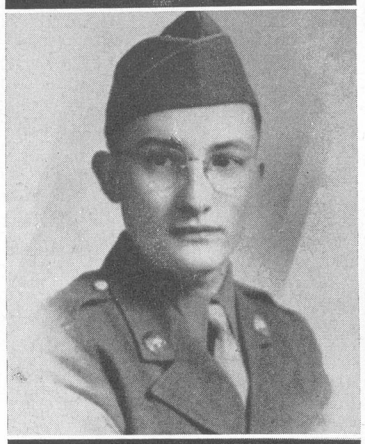
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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② Thomas B. Tucker

T/Sgt., Air Corps

Husband of Doris and father of Thomas B., Jr., Pride, La. He was born February 10, 1920, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Tucker, Pride, La., and attended Pride High School and Southeastern College. He entered service October 7, 1941, at Camp Shelby, Miss., and was assigned to Keesler Field, Miss., where he assumed the duties of supply sergeant. He left for overseas August 31, 1945, and later saw duty in Manila, Leyte and Japan. In this Pacific Theater of Operations he performed his duties as technical supply sergeant at various air corps bases. His faithful service came to an end when he received an honorable discharge January 12, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Texas.

③ Oliver William Marson

T/4, Corps of Engineers

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Oliver Marson, 310 South Eighteenth Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born June 7, 1925, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. He entered service December 6, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, La., and received his basic training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Later assigned to Camp Claiborne, La., he became part of the Corps of Engineers to be sent to Camp Stoneman, Calif., for overseas preparations. He departed for New Guinea March 16, 1944, and later saw duty on Luzon in the Philippines. He participated in the Campaigns of New Guinea and Luzon to be awarded battle stars for those areas. Wearing the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the Meritorious Service insignia, he received his honorable discharge January 28, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Texas.

① Leslie Ray Hunt

PFC, Medical Corps, Army

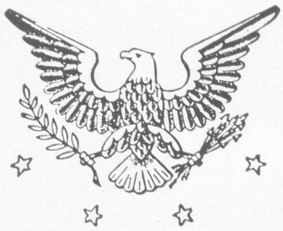
Husband of Florence Eloise, 763 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, La. He was born November 1, 1923, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon P. Hunt, 3770 Winnebago Street, Baton Rouge, La., and is a graduate of Baker High School. He entered service January 27, 1943, and took basic training in the Field Artillery at Camp Roberts, Calif. He later transferred to the Medical Corps as dental technician. He sailed for overseas May 25, 1944, and later saw duty at Finschhafen, New Guinea, Biak, Dutch East Indies; Luzon, Philippines, and several points in Japan. He holds battle stars for participation in the Campaigns of New Guinea and Philippines. He was separated from the service January 16, 1945, at Camp Fannin, Texas.

④ Upton Harold Miller

First Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Husband of Dora Blanchard Miller and father of Robert Dale, 350 South Twelfth Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born February 5, 1918, and attended Louisiana State University. He entered the service April 5, 1941, at Camp Shelby, and received his training at Fort Bragg, N. C.; Fort Sill, Okla., and Camp Livingston, La. On December 7, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater where he served with the 745th Field Artillery in Germany and Austria, participating in the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. Having served four years and eleven months, he was honorably discharged March 5, 1946, at Camp Shelby. He is the son of Upton Horace Miller, 350 South Twelfth Street, Baton Rouge, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Jesse Woodrow Hunt

② Edwin Lafayette Hunt

③ Erman Roy Hunt

④ Alvin Newton Hunt

⑤ William Doyle Edmonston

⑥ Larue Smith Brock

⑦ Claude Harvey Brock

⑧ Glen Evelyn Brock

⑨ John Vernon Edmonston

⑩ Hilary Lanier Donellan

⑪ James A. Donellan

⑫ Terry Brady Donellan

⑬ Allen G. Edwards

⑭ Arthur Wallace Edwards

⑮ Harold Gibson

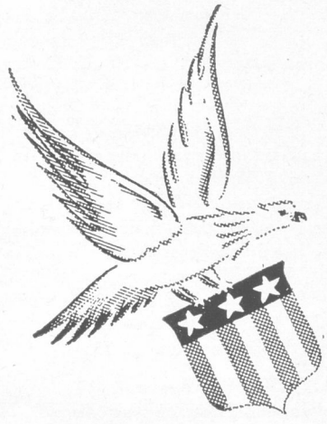
⑯ Guy J. Blanchard

⑰ Wallace L. Bennett

⑱ Boyd A. Bennett

⑲ Harold C. Matherne

⑳ Clarence A. Matherne, Jr.





① JESSE WOODROW HUNT, Captain, Air Forces

Husband of Juanita Ruth Kagler and father of Janet Ann Hunt, born Oct. 14, 1942. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Eugene Hunt, and was born Aug. 6, 1912. A graduate of Zachary High School and LSU, receiving his B. S. degree in electrical engineering in 1934. He was field engineer with Schlumberger Well Surveying Corporation, Houston, prior to entering the Army Air Forces July 6, 1942, at Camp Hulen, Palacios, Texas. Captain Hunt was officer in charge of the Engine Repair Branch of the Airplane Mechanics School at Sheppard Field, Texas, August, 1942, to May, 1944. He served at Lowry Field, Denver, Colo., as officer in charge of the Operational Checks Phase of the Remote Control Turret School. He was granted an occupational discharge at Fort Logan, Colo., on Sept. 28, 1945.

② EDWIN LAFAYETTE HUNT, Captain, C of E, AUS

Husband of Helon Wilson Hunt and father of Peggy Joyce Hunt. He was born March 20, 1909, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Eugene Hunt of Zachary, and attended Zachary High School and LSU. He was with the Louisiana State Department of Agriculture and the Standard Oil Company of Louisiana prior to entering the Army of the U. S. in the Corps of Engineers on June 15, 1942, at Camp Edwards, Mass., where he served as Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, Engineer Amphibian Command. Captain Hunt served at Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla., as Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, Mobilization Training Command; Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, Military Training Regiment; Commanding Officer, Headquarters Company, Amphibian Truck Training Regiment, and Executive Officer of the Amphibian Truck Training Regiment.

③ ERMAN ROY HUNT, Lieut. (jg), USN

Husband of Mrs. Ival V. Hunt and son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Eugene Hunt. He was born June 13, 1914, and attended Zachary High School and L. S. U., where he graduated in Mechanical Engineering. He was with E. I. DuPont De Nemours Company prior to induction Nov. 5, 1943, in the U. S. Navy at New Orleans. He was assigned to M. I. T., Boston, as a student in training and went to Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Engine Training School at Hartford, Conn., also as a student. He served as Assistant Engineering Officer at the U. S. Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas, and in the same capacity with the Carrier Aircraft Service Unit, U. S. Naval Auxiliary Air Facility, Charlestown, R. I. He also served at the U. S. Naval Air Station at Key West, Fla., where he was Assistant Maintenance Officer with the Night Attack and Combat Training Unit.

④ ALVIN NEWTON HUNT, Lieut. (jg), USNR

Husband of Patty M. Hunt, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Eugene Hunt of Zachary. He was born Feb. 6, 1920, and attended Zachary High School and L. S. U., receiving his B.S. degree in electrical engineering in 1942. He was employed as radio engineer, Morrison Field, West Palm Beach, Fla., prior to entering the U. S. Naval Reserve on April 28, 1944, at Fort Schuyler, N. Y., where he served in the maintenance of airborne electronics equipment at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me., and at M. I. T., Boston. He was on duty involving flying as technical observer at the Naval Air Station, Miami, Fla., the NAS at Beaufort, S. C., with FAW 14, FPO San Francisco, and with SPSA, Naval Air Auxiliary Station, San Clemente Island. He served with CASU 5, FPO San Francisco, on duty involving flying as an Airborne Observer in Radar.

⑤ WILLIAM DOYLE EDMONSTON
Tec/Sgt., Signal Corps

Husband of Mary Eloise Edmondston, and father of James Larry Edmonston. He was born June 9, 1917, and attended Highland School. He worked as a lineman prior to entering the Army of the U. S. in the Signal Corps on Sept. 11, 1944, at New Orleans. He was sent to Camp Crowder, Mo., for basic and ordnance technical training, and to Philadelphia, Pa., ordnance technical school, Army Communications Service Plant Engineer agency, to study rigging with wood and steel traverse. Embarking April 5, 1945, he went to Naples, Italy, where he was assigned to duty with the Signal Corps after serving in North Africa with the 3355th Signal Service Battalion erecting steel towers, radio antennae, and so forth. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the Victory Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Award. He was discharged at Fort Bragg, N. C., on July 10, 1946.

⑥ LARUE SMITH BROCK, Staff Sergeant, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ross Brock. He was born Oct. 7, 1918, and attended Seventh Ward and Highland Schools. He entered the Army of the U. S. on Jan. 9, 1941, at Camp Shelby, Miss., and served at Camp Claiborne and Camp Polk where he served on guard and security duty with the Corps of Military Police and also as a prisoner of war guard. He went to Camp Stoneman, Cal., with a Hospital Ship Platoon. On Aug. 9, 1944, Staff Sergeant Brock embarked for New Guinea where he served throughout his assignment to foreign duty. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Theater and American Defense Service Ribbons, and was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Beale, Calif., on Oct. 7, 1945.

⑦ CLAUDE HARVEY BROCK, Fireman 1/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ross Brock, he was born Aug. 27, 1926, and attended Ninth Ward and Baton Rouge Junior High Schools. He was with Aluminum Ore Company prior to entering the U. S. Naval Reserve on April 30, 1944, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego he went to the Amphibious Training Base at Oceanside, Calif., and to Camp San Luis Obispo. On Dec. 6, 1944, he embarked for Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii. He served on Eniwetok, Saipan, the Marshall Islands, the Solomon Islands, Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides, Ulithi Atoll in the Caroline Islands, Guam in the Marianas, the Philippines, Yokohama in Japan, and Panama. He was in action on Iwo Jima in the Volcano Isles, Okinawa in the Ryukyus Group, and the Philippines, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and Philippine Liberation Ribbons with Campaign Stars and the American Theater of Operations Ribbon. He was honorably discharged May 24, 1946.

⑧ GLEN EVELYN BROCK, Corporal, Army

Husband of Lucy Lillian Brock, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ross Brock. He was born Jan. 1, 1911, and attended Midway School, Tylertown, Miss. He was a painter prior to his induction in the Army of the U. S. on Dec. 21, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned to Fort Lewis, Wash., where he served with the Field Artillery. Transferring to the Quartermaster Corps, he served at Camp Irwin, Calif., and at Dibble General Hospital, Menlo Park, Calif. He was granted his honorable discharge Jan. 22, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑨ JOHN VERNON EDMONSTON, C Mo MM, U. S. Navy

He was born Nov. 29, 1919, and attended Highland School. He did Diesel repair work for Illinois Central Railroad at Baton Rouge prior to entering the U. S. Navy on Dec. 23, 1941, at New Orleans. He received his Naval Training at the U. S. Naval Training Station at Norfolk, Va., and began sea duty in Feb., 1942, serving in both the Pacific and the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. Chief Motor Machinist Mate Edmonston served with the USS Vincennes, the USS Hunter Liggett, the USS Barnett, and the USS American Legion. He was stationed at Wellington, New Zealand and at Tulagi. He served in the Asiatic-Pacific, the European-African-Middle Eastern, and the American Theaters of Operations. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans, on Nov. 29, 1945.

⑩ HILARY LANIER DONELLAN, Signalman 2/C, USNR

Husband of Ruth Donellan and son of Mr. and Mrs. James Anthony Donellan. He was born Jan. 15, 1925, and entered the U. S. Naval Reserve on July 6, 1942, at New Orleans, and went to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego for recruit training and attended Signalman School in San Diego. Signalman Second Class Donellan has served aboard the USS Crane, the USS Sacramento, the USS Kennison DD 138, the USS YMS 114, and the USS SC 1003, a submarine chaser. Granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans Oct. 12, 1945, he re-enlisted in the U. S. Navy on Jan. 12, 1946.

⑪ JAMES A. DONELLAN, PFC, CE, Army

Husband of Mrs. Ada Donellan, and father of Mary Rose Donellan. He was born April 6, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Anthony

Donellan, and attended Catholic High School, and Loyola University of the South. He was with Illinois Central Railroad prior to entering the Army on April 1, 1942. Assigned to the Railroad Engineers he went to Camp Shelby for duty on Southern Railway System. Embarking from Fort Dix, N. J., on August 30, 1942, he went to England and to Africa on anti-aircraft protection for trains. He operated railroads with the Engineers in France, Germany, and Austria, and was in combat in North Afica (Invasion of Oran, Kasserine Pass), Italy (Rome-Arno), France and Central Europe (the Rhine Crossing). His unit was cited by General Mark Clark, British General Alexander, and by General Giraud. He also served in handling displaced persons. Discharged Sept. 12, 1946.

⑫ **TERRY BRADY DONELLAN, Chief Water Tender, USN**
Born Oct. 20, 1921, he entered the U. S. Navy June 14, 1940. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, he embarked Sept. 4, 1940, for Pearl Harbor. With the USS Sicard DM 21 he was at Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, and in the Battle of Midway. He served with the USS Hobby DD 610 on the Atlantic Convoy run to Africa, and with the USS Remey DD 688 from its commissioning in Boston Navy Yard, in D-Day on Kwajalein Atoll, the Marshalls and Marianas Campaigns with the Fifth Fleet, night bombardments and D-Day on Tinian, the Palau Islands, Babelthaup, the landings on Leyte and the fighting in Surigao Strait with Flagship Squadron 54 in unsupported torpedo attacks on the enemy surface fleet (credited one battleship, one destroyer), Mindoro, Lingayen Gulf on Luzon, Honshu, Tokyo, Iwo Jima, Carrier Task Fleet strikes on Kyushu prior to Okinawa (in carrier force which sunk the battleship Yamoto), and Hokkaido, the Kuriles, and Islands of the Mainland of Japan, then with the 4th Fleet Occupation Force. He re-enlisted at San Diego June 8, 1946.

⑬ **ALLEN G. EDWARDS, Sergeant, Marines**
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Birch Edwards, he was born April 15, 1918, and attended Central High School. He was an employee of Standard Oil Company and a student at L. S. U. Entering the U. S. Marine Corps on Jan. 3, 1942, he was assigned for training to the U. S. Marine Corps Base at San Diego, Cal., and to Camp Elliott, Cal. He also served at Camp New River, N. C., and Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Cal. On Jan. 10, 1944, Sergeant Edwards embarked for the Pacific Area. He served as a platoon guide in the Hawaiian Islands, the Marshall Islands, and the Marianas Islands, and was in combat in the great Marine invasions of Roi and Namur in the Marshalls and Saipan in the Marianas. He has the Purple Heart for wounds received on Saipan presented in Aug., 1944, at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Aiea Heights, Honolulu, and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. He was discharged May 4, 1945.

⑭ **ARTHUR WALLACE EDWARDS, Fireman First Class, USN**
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Birch Edwards, he was born March 19, 1927, and attended Central High School, entering the U. S. Naval Reserve on March 14, 1945, at the Naval Recruiting Station in New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Cal., and USN TADCEN, Shoemaker, Cal. On Aug. 13, 1945, he embarked for the Philippine Islands. He served with Comserbon 7, Navy 3149, at U. S. Navy Receiving Station, Navy 3112, and with USS SC (C) 1018. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans, on June 27, 1946.

⑮ **HAROLD GIBSON, Corporal, AAF**
Husband of Aline E. Gibson, and son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gibson. He attended Baton Rouge High School and entered the Army Air Forces June 10, 1941, at Cincinnati, Ohio. He was assigned to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and Harding and Esler Fields, La., prior to embarking from Fort Dix and Camp Kilmer, N. J., for Gournek, Scotland, on Aug. 30, 1942. He served in Newbury, Bath, Christ Church, and Middlewallop, England, as an aerial gunner, landing on Omaha Beach, Normandy, on D-Day plus One. He was stationed also at Alencon, Versailles, and Paris, France, Charleroi and Ververis, Belgium, Maastritch, Holland, and Aachen, Germany, as well as a score of other stations, and has the European Theater Ribbon with six stars for the Air Offensive over Europe, Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes, and Central Europe. He has the Good Conduct and American Defense Service Medals, the Croix de Guerre of France and the Belgian Fleur de Guerre.

⑯ **GUY J. BLANCHARD, Tec/5, Cavalry, AUS**
Husband of Ivy Coates Blanchard and father of Beverly Ann and Harold Wayne Blanchard. Son of Joshua and Ada Henry Blanchard. He attended Baton Rouge Junior High School. He was a printing pressman prior to his induction in the Army March 28, 1945, at New Orleans. He served at Camp Chaffee, Ark., Fort Riley, Kan., Fort Ord and Camp Anza, Cal., with the Mechanized Cavalry and embarked Sept. 26, 1945, for Manila and Luzon where he served with the 1613th Engineer Forestry Division and the 1002nd Engineer Forestry Division, 4th Battalion. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and the Presidential Unit Citation Badge (with the 1613th Engineer Forestry Division).

⑰ **WALLACE L. BENNETT, BM 1/C, Coast Guard**
Son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Bennett. He was born April 27, 1922, and attended Central High School. Entering the U. S. Coast Guard on Sept. 3, 1942, at New Orleans, Boatswain's Mate First Class Bennett served with the 8th Naval district to Jan. 27, 1943, with CG 83338, East Coast, to July 7, 1943, with CG 83427, New London, Conn., to Aug. 10, 1943, and with CG 83429, New York, to Dec. 15, 1944, when he embarked for Leyte, Philippine Islands. He served in the Philippines on convoy and patrol duty and was assigned to General A. W. Brewster PA 155 in the Pacific. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Good Conduct Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon, and was granted his honorable discharge on Jan. 25, 1946, at New Orleans.

⑱ **BOYD A. BENNETT, Corporal, QMC, AUS**
Son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Bennett. He was born Jan. 16, 1926, and entered the Army of the U. S. in the Quartermaster Corps on March 13, 1944, at Camp Beauregard. Corporal Bennett served with the QMC as checker at Camp Barkeley, Texas, Camp Polk, La., and Camp Shanks, N. Y., port of embarkation. Departing Oct. 29, 1944, for the European Theater, he served in combat in the Campaign of the Rhineland as a QMC checker, and spent three weeks in England, six months in Belgium, and thirteen months in France. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on June 3, 1946.

⑲ **HAROLD C. MATHERNE, Corporal, USMCR**
Son of Mr. Clarence Armond Matherne, he was born Aug. 26, 1924, and attended Baton Rouge High School, L. S. U., Wright Junior College and Grove City College. Entering the U. S. Marine Corps on Feb. 19, 1944, at New Orleans, he served at the U. S. Marine Corps Base in San Diego, Camp Pendleton, Cal., Naval Air Technical Training Stations at Chicago (Pre-Radio) and Grove City, Penn. He was assigned to duty with training unit in the repair of electronic equipment. On April 1, 1944, he embarked for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations where he served at Pearl Harbor, at the Marine Corps Base on Guam, and in China. He was discharged at San Diego, Cal., on Aug. 21, 1946.

⑳ **CLARENCE A. MATHERNE, JR., Lieutenant, FA, Army**
Husband of Jean Dorothy Westmoreland Matherne, and father of Carolyn Jean Matherne. He was born Oct. 17, 1918, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence A. Matherne. He attended Baton Rouge Senior High School and L. S. U. and was with the State Department of Revenue, prior to his induction in the Army April 4, 1942. He served with the Field Artillery at Fort Sill, Okla. (Officer Candidate School), and Camp Reynolds, Pa., and embarked Oct. 21, 1943, for England where he trained for the assault on the Normandy Coast, landing on Omaha Beach June 7 as an artillery forward observer, 227th Field Artillery Battalion, 29th (Blue and Gray) Division. He fought in the Normandy Campaign (St. Lo) and Northern France and has the European Theater ribbon with two stars and the Victory Medal. He was at Northington General Hospital, Tuscaloosa, Ala., with combat fatigue and was discharged Dec. 13, 1945, at Fort Bragg, N. C.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Donald Joseph Sims

Tec/Sgt., Air Forces

Son of Mrs. Rita Bossier Sims, Baton Rouge. He was born May 8, 1923, and attended LSU. He was a personnel clerk for E. B. Badger & Sons, Baton Rouge, prior to entering the Army Air Forces October 20, 1943, at Amarillo, Texas. He served as an aviation cadet at Amarillo and went to Aerial Gunnery School at Las Vegas, Nev. He reported to Lincoln Army Air Base, Neb., for assignment and to Ardmore, Okla., for air crew training. He spent 11 months and 10 days overseas, embarking by plane from Lincoln AAB for the European Theater of Operations September 30, 1944. He served at Elmswell, England, as aerial gunner on a B-17, then went to Chettington for Radar Counter-Measures School. He returned to Elmswell as aerial gunner and RCM operator on a B-17. Technical Sergeant Sims fought in the Campaigns of the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Victory Medal, the ATO Ribbon, the EAMETO Ribbon with three bronze Campaign Stars, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged November 7, 1945, at San Antonio, Texas.

② Harry B. Breedlove

Major, Air Forces

Husband of Jane Crenshaw Breedlove of Memphis, Tenn., and father of Catherine Kilbourne Breedlove. He is the son of Charles Hurt and Margaret (Kilbourne) Breedlove of Clinton, and attended Clinton High School and LSU. He was engaged in industrial instrumentation prior to entering the Quartermaster Corps on August 10, 1941, at Camp Shelby, Miss., where he served as a Quartermaster officer for one year, then transferred to the Army Air Forces August 19, 1942, assigned as chief of Automatic Flight Operations Branch, ATSC, at Wright Field, Ohio. On October 25, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater of Operations and served in England, France and North Africa, assigned to Headquarters ETO, USSTAF, in specialized automatic flight control equipment. He returned to the United States on March 3, 1945, assigned as project engineer to develop point-to-point automatic flight for the Air Forces. In this important task he designed, developed and flight-tested equipment for automatic point-to-point aircraft operations. He has the EAMETO, American Theater and American Defense Service Ribbons and Victory Medal, and was honorably discharged March 2, 1946.

③ John V. Lapenas

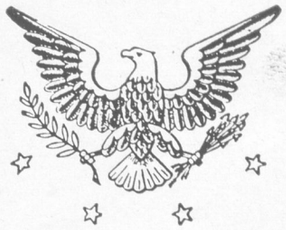
First Lieutenant, AAF

Son of Mrs. Helen B. Lapenas, Irvington, N. J., and husband of Beryle Evans Lapenas, Baton Rouge. He has a son, John V. Lapenas, Jr. He was a tool engineer for Bendix Aviation Corporation prior to entering the AAF July 1, 1942. He received training at Maxwell Field, Ala., Clarksdale Field, Miss., Newport Army Air Base, Ark., George Field, Ill., and Selman Field, Monroe, where he served as pilot and studied navigation. He went to Pensacola, Fla., for pilot training on Navy seaplanes, and to Keesler Field, Miss., for Air Sea Rescue Training. On December 19, 1944, he embarked for England with the Eighth U. S. Air Force and was stationed with the Fifth Emergency Rescue Squadron at Halesworth. While serving on Air Sea Rescue duty over the English Channel and the North Sea he was credited with four rescues, and once spent five days in an effort to rescue a fighter pilot three miles off the German-held coast. His PBY was strafed and sunk by German aircraft and his party stayed in rubber dinghies and a Higgins Airborne Lifeboat until picked up by British launches 15 miles from Helgoland April 4, 1945. Lieutenant Lapenas fought in the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the European Theater Ribbon with three Campaign Stars, the Air Medal and Presidential Unit Citation.

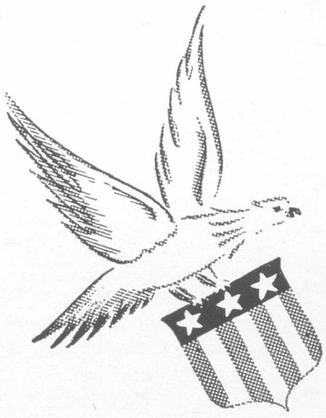
④ Norman Joseph Wilton, Jr.

Ensign, Naval Air Forces

Husband of Marguerit Felder, 603 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born August 4, 1923, son of Mrs. Juliette Vicknair Wilton, 603 Mayflower Street, Baton Rouge, La., and was educated at Catholic High School and Louisiana State University. Prior to his service with the Navy he worked as fireman on the Y. & M. V. Railroad. He entered the service May 24, 1943, at New Orleans, La., and received preparatory flight training at Liberty, Mo.; pre-flight training at Topeka, Kan.; primary flight training at Iowa City, Iowa, and operational training at Jacksonville, Fla. He was later assigned to Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, Wash. He was placed on inactive status with an honorable discharge on November 25, 1945.







WALTER EDWARD HAASE

Captain, U. S. Army

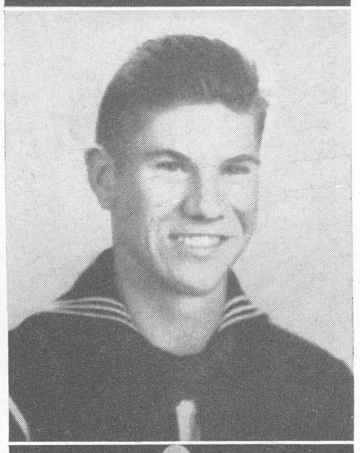
Husband of Mae Donahoo Haase, Baton Rouge, La. He was born August 16, 1909, attended Tulane University, and was employed by Barnes Motor Supply Company prior to entering the service. Inducted November 9, 1942, he received his training at Camp Wallace; Mississippi State College, and was then assigned to Camp Plauche as company officer training men. On May 3, 1944, he embarked for overseas, serving both in the European and Pacific Theaters, and participating in the campaigns of Normandy and Northern France. Captain Haase has the European Theater of Operations Medal with one Bronze Star, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged July 23, 1946, at Fort Bliss, Texas. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Haase, New Orleans, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA


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① Frank G. Rieger, Jr.

Captain, FA, Army

Husband of Betty Sharp Rieger and son of Frank G. Rieger and Edna Lewis Rieger of Baton Rouge. He was born July 28, 1923, and attended Hollywood and Baton Rouge Junior and Senior High Schools, and Louisiana State University. He entered military service April 21, 1943, and went from Camp Beauregard to Fort Sill, Okla., for officer candidate school and flight training as a Field Artillery Liaison Pilot. He received further flight training at Liaison Pilot School, Pittsburg, Kan., and served as a liaison pilot with the Field Artillery at Camp Van Dorn, Miss., Camp Blanding, Fla., Fort Bragg, N. C., Camp Patrick Henry, Va., Camp Carson, Col., Camp Gruber, Okla., and Camp Hood, Texas. In March, 1945, he went to Italy as a Field Artillery Liaison Pilot with General Clark's Fifth U. S. Army, 10th Mountain Division. He fought in the Campaign of the Po Valley and has the EAMETO Ribbon with one bronze Campaign Star. He took the Athletic Director's course at Lexington, Va. Captain Rieger was honorably released from active service on May 9, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

② Alvin Lee Bond, Jr.

Tec/5, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Lee Bond, Baton Rouge. He was born May 28, 1925, and attended Crosby High School. He was a locomotive fireman with Illinois Central Railroad prior to entering the Army of the United States August 14, 1943, at New Orleans. From Camp Gruber, Okla., Infantry basic training, he was assigned to the Army Service Forces, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, with a railway battalion, receiving technical training at Fort Benning, Ga. On August 11, 1944, he embarked for Liverpool, England, and served in France, Belgium and Germany as a locomotive fireman with the 722nd Railway Operating Battalion. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe, frequently operating to the front lines and under enemy fire. He has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the EAMETO Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. Returning to the States, he was honorably discharged January 17, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

③ Weldon J. Stevens

Tec/5, U. S. Army

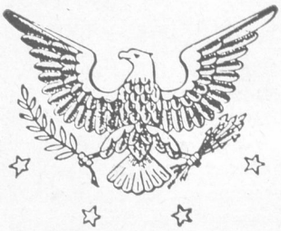
Son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Stevens, Baton Rouge. He was born July 22, 1923, and attended Central High School. He attended Fingerprint Classification School, Washington, D. C., and was with Badger Construction Company prior to entering the Army of the United States February 23, 1943. He served at Fort Knox, Ky., Camp Forrest, Tenn., Camp Carson, Col., Camp Howze, Texas, Fort Meade, Md., and Camp Stoneman, Calif. Op April 20, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater of Operations and served in Northern Luzon, Cebu Island, and Eniwetok Atoll. He was in combat on Luzon and Cebu in the Philippine Islands and has the Asiatic-Pacific, Philippine Liberation and American Theater of Operations Ribbons. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Fannin, Texas, on February 23, 1946, after three years of unselfish and efficient service.

④ James Milton Stevens

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Stevens, Baton Rouge. He was born July 10, 1927, and attended Central High School. He was with a retail shoe store prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on June 8, 1945, at the United States Naval Training Station, San Diego. He went to the United States Naval Training Station and Distribution Center at Camp Elliott, San Diego and to Treasure Island, and served also at the U. S. Naval Air Station, New Orleans. Seventeen years of age when he entered military service, S 1/C Stevens embarked for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations on October 10, 1945, and served on Leyte, Luzon, Samar, Mindoro, Mindanao, Corregidor, Negros and Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. He served with a minesweeper in mine clearing operations throughout the waters of the Philippines, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations and the Philippine Liberation Ribbons. Returning to the States, he was honorably discharged on July 11, 1946, and re-enlisted with V-6 Naval Reserve for a period of four years.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Nena Mae Atkinson

② Russell Atkinson, Jr.

③ Edgar J. Atkinson

④ Charles Monroe Lewis

⑤ Paul Frederick Siegel

⑥ Raymond Theodore Siegel

⑦ William Grunewald III

⑧ Leander M. Grunewald

⑨ James Purpera

⑩ Phillip Francis Purpera

⑪ Kelly Carl Manno

⑫ Ignatuis P. Purpera

⑬ Leo F. Brashear

⑭ Hunter Wright Barrilleaux

⑮ John Gilbert Barrilleaux

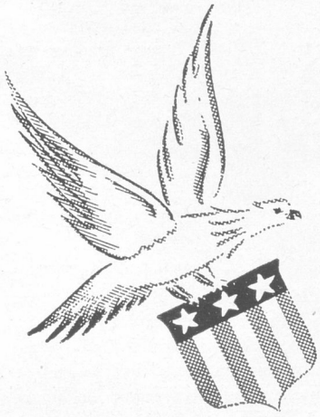
⑯ Herbert Anthony Penouilh

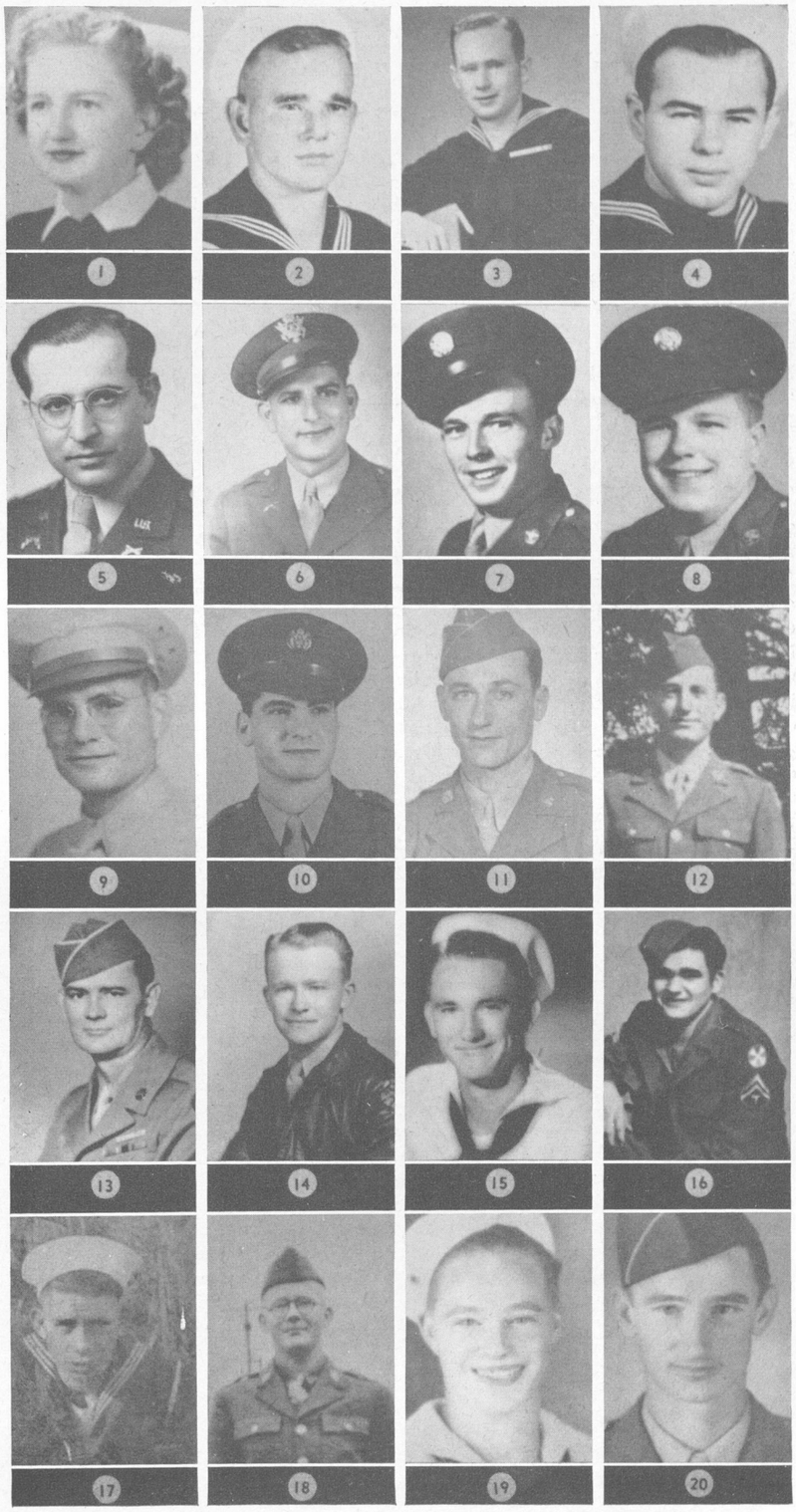
⑰ Lloyd Norton

⑱ Clifton W. Norton, Jr.

⑲ Hollis I. Miller

⑳ Earl J. Miller





① NENA MAE ATKINSON, Cadet Nurse

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell M. Atkinson, 1515 Concrete Drive, Baton Rouge, La. She was born April 8, 1926, and attended Morganza High School and Our Lady of the Lake School of Nursing, Our Lady of the Lake Sanitarium, Baton Rouge. She enlisted as a cadet nurse on August 1, 1943, at Our Lady of the Lake Sanitarium and planned to complete her nursing course and serve as a commissioned officer in the Nurse Corps of one of the armed services.

② RUSSELL ATKINSON, JR., TM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell M. Atkinson, 1515 Concrete Drive, Baton Rouge. He was born March 28, 1924, and attended Morganza High School. Entering the United States Naval Reserve July 16, 1943, at Lafayette, he was assigned to the United States Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., for boot training. Assigned to sea duty with the USS Pringle DD 477, he embarked for New Caledonia October 22, 1943, and served in the naval bombardment of Japan and the assault invasion of Okinawa. The 21-year-old sailor was in military service with the United States Navy for exactly 21 months when he was reported killed in action April 16, 1945. He was awarded the Navy Presidential Unit Citation from President Truman and the Purple Heart, presented posthumously to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Russell M. Atkinson, on October 1, 1945.

③ EDGAR J. ATKINSON, MM 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell M. Atkinson, 1515 Concrete Drive, Baton Rouge. He was born June 17, 1922, and attended Morganza High School and Southwestern Louisiana Institute at Lafayette, entering the United States Naval Reserve on June 15, 1943, at New Orleans. He was assigned for recruit training to the United States Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif. On April 14, 1944, he embarked for sea duty with the USS Fuller with which he served in the landings and assault on Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas, on Peleliu in the Palau Islands, on Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines, and on Okinawa in the Ryukyus Group, and also in the occupation of China and Japan. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and Philippine Liberation Ribbons with Campaign Stars and World War II Victory Ribbon. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on April 15, 1945.

④ CHARLES MONROE LEWIS, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Roy Desmond and Eula Bell Lewis, Route 1, East Brookstown Drive, Baton Rouge. He was born May 26, 1924, and attended Istrouma High School at Baton Rouge and Jeffersonville, Ind., Pryor, Okla., and Claremore, Okla., High Schools. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on May 17, 1943, at Tulsa, Okla., he went from the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, to the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tenn. He served with Navy Base, Navy 3205; Naval Shore Facilities, Navy 3964, and the Naval Receiving Station, Treasure Island, Calif. On April 27, 1944, he embarked for the Admiralty Islands (Manus) and served also on Los Negros with the Base Transportation Unit and on the Philippines at Tacloban (Leyte) as office messenger, mail center. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Campaign Star, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Navy Commendation. He was granted his honorable discharge at the Naval Air Station in New Orleans on January 23, 1946.

⑤ PAUL FREDERICK SIEGEL, 1st Lieut., CMP, AUS

Son of Mrs. Rose S. Siegel, he was born Sept. 22, 1915, and attended Grenada (Miss.) High School and Louisiana State University (LL B). Entering the Army May 18, 1942, he served at Fort Francis E. Warren, Wyo., then attended Officer Candidate School, Corps of Military Police, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He was assigned to duty as legal assistance officer at Camp Perry, Ohio. Lt. Siegel went to the Aleutian Islands Sept. 18, 1942, and served at Unmak as chief storekeeper and with the SS Timothy Dwight as transport service officer. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one bronze Campaign Star for the Aleutians Campaign, the Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, and World War II Victory Medal. Discharged March 15, 1946.

⑥ RAYMOND THEODORE SIEGEL, 1st Lt., Infantry, AUS

Son of Mrs. Rose S. Siegel, 904 Camellia Avenue, Baton Rouge, born July 2, 1920. He attended Louisiana State University and entered the Army April 19, 1942, at Camp Wheeler, Ga., Infantry Replacement Depot. From Camp Edwards, Mass., Ninth Replacement Battalion, he embarked for North Africa in 1942 and served with the 39th Infantry Regiment, Ninth Infantry Regiment, in the Campaign of North Africa, as Company G-2. Lieutenant Siegel was killed in action August 12, 1943, in North Africa and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with one star for Nrth Africa and the Mediterranean area.

⑦ WILLIAM GRUNEWALD III, Corporal, Air Forces

Husband of Barbara Magee Grunewald, 2943 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, and father of Cheryl Lynn Grunewald. He was born January 17, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Grunewald, Jr., of Baton Rouge, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. Enlisting in the Army Air Forces October 13, 1942, at New Orleans, he went from Camp Beauregard to Roswell Army Air Field, Roswell, N. M., as an aircraft mechanic. He attended Army Air Forces Technical Training Schools at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas, and Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill. He also served at Santa Ana Air Base, Calif., where he was granted his honorable discharge on January 30, 1946. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and World War II Victory Ribbon.

⑧ LEANDER M. GRUNEWALD, Staff Sgt., Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Grunewald, Jr., 2943 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge. He was born September 29, 1922, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the Army Air Forces on December 14, 1942, he went from New Orleans to Camp Beauregard, then to Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, as a basic trainee. He went to Sawyer Business College, Los Angeles, Calif., for Engineering and Operations School. He served at Hammer Field, Fresno, Calif., then went to Muroc Army Air Field, Muroc, Calif., as chief clerk for base publications. He served at Topeka Army Air Field, Topeka, Kansas, as chief clerk for the Air Inspector. He went to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he was honorably discharged on Feb. 20, 1946. Staff Sergeant Grunewald was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.

⑨ JAMES PURPERA, Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Purpera and husband of Elenora Doreen Purpera, he was born May 20, 1921, and attended Morganza High School. Purpera entered the service July 1, 1942, and received training at Camp Livingston, La., Sheppard Field, Texas and Salt Lake City, Utah. Sergeant Purpera served in Scotland at Prestwick Field as a vehicle dispatcher and later served in France. He was discharged December 21, 1945.

⑩ PHILLIP FRANCIS PURPERA, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. Sam Purpera of Morganza, La., he was born April 12, 1924, and attended Morganza High School, La. State University and West Virginia University. Entering the service June 3, 1943, Phillip was assigned to Camp Hood, Texas, for training. Later he was sent to A. S. T. P. unit in West Virginia. He also trained as a Rifleman and attended Louisiana State University School of Medicine. He is the holder of the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal and American Theater Ribbon. Phillip was discharged March 12, 1946.

⑪ KELLY CARL MANNO, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Jack F. Manno and husband of Mary Josephine Purpera Manno of Baton Rouge, La., he was born May 20, 1917. Manno attended Catholic High School at Baton Rouge, La., and prior to his army service he was employed by the Standard Oil Company of Louisiana. Entering the U. S. Army December 22, 1944, he was assigned to Camp Joseph T. Robinson for basic training as a Rifleman. He was then sent to Fort Ord, Calif., as a Rifleman. PFC Manno is the holder of the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal and American Theater Ribbon. He was discharged July 18, 1945. Manno is the father of Jackie Carl.

⑫ IGNATUIS P. PURPERA, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Purpera and husband of Hilda P. Purpera, he was born July 18, 1913, and attended Morganza High School. Prior to his services with the U. S. Army Purpera was employed by the U. S. Engineers. Entering the service November 20, 1943, he received basic training at Camp Abbot, Oregon, later being sent to Fort Lewis, Wash. He received Unit training at Camp Gruber, Okla., and attended school for surveying at Fort Belvoir, Va. Purpera is the holder of the Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Ribbon and Victory Ribbon. He was discharged December 16, 1945.

⑬ LEO F. BRASHEAR, Cpl., Infantry, AUS

Husband of Idah Mae B. Brashear of Baker and son of Mrs. Bessie Weaver Brashear of Baker. He was born October 7, 1907, and attended Baker High School. He was engaged in construction and machine operation with the Standard Oil Company prior to entering the Army in the Infantry December 22, 1943. From the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Fannin, Texas, he went to Fort George G. Meade, Md., from which he went to the European Theater July 1, 1944, when he embarked for England. He fought as a combat rifleman in Normandy, Northern France, and the Rhineland and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three bronze Campaign Stars, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Good Conduct Medal. He also has the Purple Heart for wounds received in action presented August 25, 1945, at Miami. He was a prisoner of war from December 1, 1944, to May 1, 1945. He was honorably discharged October 15, 1945.

⑭ HUNTER WRIGHT BARRILLEAUX, Sgt., Air Forces

Son of Phil J. and Elba Hunter Barrilleaux, 2136 Hollywood Drive, Baton Rouge. He was born April 15, 1924, and attended Istrouma High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the Army Air Forces December 10, 1942, at New Orleans, he went to Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, for basic training and to Iowa Wesleyan with a College Training Detachment. He served at Santa Ana Army Air Base, Calif., Lincoln Army Air Base, Neb., Mitchel Field, Long Island, N. Y., Bradley Field, Windsor Locks, Conn., Norfolk Army Air Field, Va., Bluethenthal Army Air Field, Wilmington, N. C., Alexandria Army Air Field, La., San Bernardino Army Air Field, Calif., and McClellan Field, Calif. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal, and was granted his honorable discharge at McClellan Field on February 1, 1946.

⑮ JOHN GILBERT BARRILLEAUX, Seaman First Class, USNR

Son of Phil J. and Elva Hunter Barrilleaux, 2136 Hollywood Drive, Baton Rouge. He was born September 2, 1926, and attended Istrouma High School. He was a student prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on September 9, 1944, at New Orleans. He was sent to the US Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., and served with the USS Nevada and at the US Naval Magazine, Theodore, Ala. On December 18, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific area and served in Hawaii, the Caroline Islands, the Marshall Islands, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and the China Sea. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three bronze Campaign Stars, World War II Victory Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and the American Theater of Operations Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge June 3, 1946, at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans.

⑯ HERBERT ANTHONY PENOUILH Field Artillery, Army

Son of Herbert Anthony Penouilh and Idah Mae Brashear of Baker. He was born February 20, 1925, and is a graduate of Baker High School. Entering the Army of the United States on April 25, 1945, at New Orleans, he was assigned to Field Artillery units and received his basic and technical training at Fort Bragg, N. C. He served at Fort Ord, Calif., from which place he embarked for overseas service. Going to Japan where he remained to serve with the Army of Occupation, he was stationed at Kyoto, at Yokohama, and at Jackson Field. He was continuing to serve with the Army of Occupation, stationed in the Japanese home islands.

⑰ LLOYD NORTON, Boilermaker 2/C, USN

Husband of Dorothy Ellwood Norton of Port Allen and son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton W. Norton, 2626 Huson Street, Baton Rouge. He was born July 14, 1923, and attended Istrouma High School. He was employed by Stone and Webster Corporation prior to entering the United States Navy December 22, 1942, at Baton Rouge. He was assigned for training to United States Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., and to Naval stations at Quincy, Mass., and New Orleans. On September 30, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific on the USS Washington and served at Truk, the Marshall Islands, the Gilbert Islands, Guam, Yap, Palau, Saipan, Okinawa, Tarawa, the Philippines, and the home islands of Japan. Returning to the States, he was honorably discharged November 3, 1945, at New Orleans.

⑱ CLIFTON W. NORTON, JR., Private, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton W. Norton, 2626 Huson Street, Baton Rouge. He was born February 11, 1922, and attended Istrouma High School. He entered the Army of the United States October 22, 1942, and was assigned to duty at Camp Adair, Ore., and Fort Lewis, Wash., as a cook with Company K, 383rd Infantry Regiment. He served in this capacity until granted a CDD discharge at Camp Adair, Ore., October 15, 1943, after more than a year of unselfish and efficient service.

⑲ HOLLIS I. MILLER, U. S. Navy

He was born July 1, 1921, the son of Mrs. Vallie C. Miller of Baton Rouge, La. He attended the Baton Rouge Junior High School and entered the U. S. Navy January 5, 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑳ EARL J. MILLER, Army Air Corps

Son of Mrs. Vallie C. Miller of 519 Louisiana Avenue, Baton Rouge, La. He was born April 16, 1913 and attended public schools in Baton Rouge. Upon completion of his education, he entered the Army Air Corps October 5, 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Iveson Batchelor Noland

Captain, AUS (Chaplain)

Husband of Nell Burden Noland of Natchitoches and father of Iveson B. Noland III. He was born September 10, 1916, the son of Iveson B. and Camille (Reynaud) Noland of Baton Rouge, and attended University High School, Louisiana State University, and Sewanee University of the South. On February 18, 1942, he entered the Army as a chaplain at Natchitoches and was assigned to Camp McClellan, Ala., Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Camp Van Dorn, Miss., and Camp Maxey, Texas. On January 15, 1944, he embarked for New Guinea and served as chaplain of the First Field Hospital on New Guinea and Leyte. He served in the New Guinea and Leyte (Philippine Islands) Campaigns. Returning to the States he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Hood, Texas, on October 26, 1945.

② Sidney A. Poirrier

Tec/5, CE, Army

Son of Armond P. Poirrier, 3770 Pontiac Street, Baton Rouge. He was born September 8, 1923, and attended Istrouma School. He was a welder prior to entering the U. S. Army in the Corps of Engineers May 20, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He went from the receiving center to Camp Abbot, Ore., for basic engineer training, and was assigned to Camp Shelby, Miss. He embarked December 1, 1944, for England and served with Company B, 269th Engineer Battalion; Company B, 121st Engineer Battalion; Company C, 332nd Engineer Battalion, and Headquarters and Service Company, 332nd Engineers General Service Regiment. He served as a heavy equipment and crane operator with the Engineers in England, France, Belgium and Germany. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars for the Rhineland and Central Europe, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater Ribbon, and the Victory Ribbon, and was continuing to serve faithfully with the Army of Occupation.

③ Rhett R. McMahon

Master Sergeant, U. S. Army

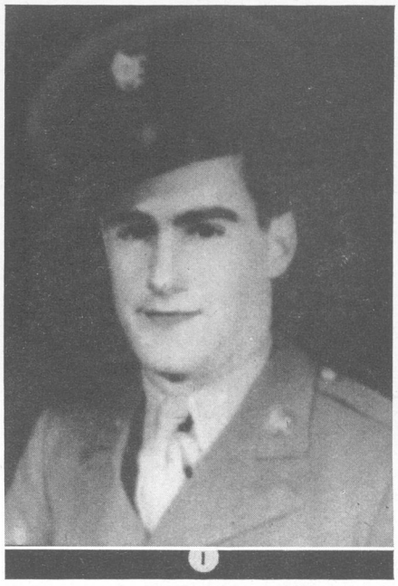
Husband of Yvonne B. McMahon, and father of Rhett R., Jr., 310 Convention Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born November 16, 1916, attended Baton Rouge High School, and Louisiana State University for two years and Tulane for two years. Inducted June 26, 1941, at Camp Livingston, he served as chief clerk in the registrar's office of the hospital at Camp Shelby, Miss., Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and Camp Grant, Illinois. On September 21, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and was assigned first to 166th General Hospital, LeMans, France. From there he went to the 166th General Hospital, LeHavre, France, and from there he was assigned to the 14th Hospital Train at LaHavre, France. Sergeant McMahon was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on November 21, 1945. He is the son of Dr. Rhett G. and Mrs. Pearl F. McMahon, 310 Convention Street, Baton Rouge, La.

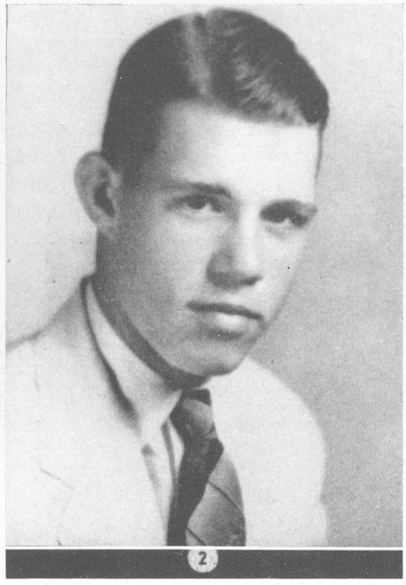
④ Ralph W. May

Captain, Corps of Engineers

Husband of Mary Belle, Baton Rouge, La. He was born April 14, 1910, son of Mr. and Mrs. John May, 2959 Adams Avenue, Baton Rouge, La., and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. Prior to his tour of duty with the Engineers he worked as Agricultural Statistician, with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. He entered service May 15, 1942, and received basic training at Camp Claiborne, La. After attending O. C. S. at Fort Belvoir, Va., he was assigned to Geiger Field, Wash., as Engineer Platoon Combat Officer. His next post was at Camp Williams, Wis., followed by a position as assistant post engineer at Rapid City Army Air Base, S. D. He departed for overseas November 1, 1943, and served as utilities maintenance officer at Ascension Island. His release from active service came on February 12, 1946, at Lowry Field, Col.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





① Jerome C. Matherne, Jr.

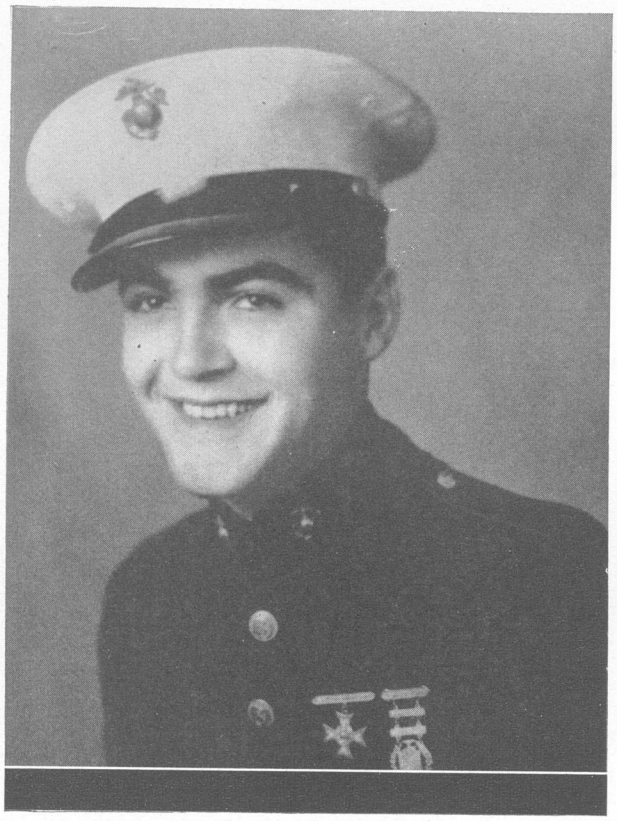
S/Sgt., Corps of Engineers

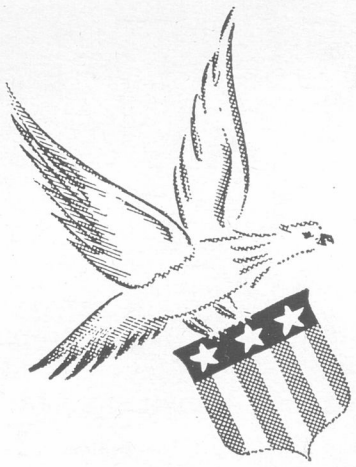
Husband of Elsie, 2602 Pocahontas Street, Baton Rouge, La. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome C. Matherne, Sr., born August 21, 1921. Prior to joining the Armed Forces he attended Louisiana State University. Inducted August 2, 1942, he received initial training at Camp Forrest, Tenn. Serving in the capacity of unit foreman, he remained with the Engineers at posts including Camp Phillips, Kan.; Arizona Desert Maneuvers; Fort Dix, N. J.; Camp Kilmer, N. J. He sailed for Scotland July 7, 1944, to see later duty in France, Belgium and Germany. He helped establish bridgeheads from Utah Beach to the Enns River. Fighting in the Campaigns of Northern France, Central Europe, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Southern Germany, he was awarded the Bronze Star and has four battle stars on his European Theater Ribbon. He was honorably discharged October 16, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

② Carl Zachary Webb

Wiper, Merchant Marine

Son of Robert Carl and Florence Zachary Webb, 631 North Seventh Street, Baton Rouge. He was born October 6, 1922, and attended Nicholson School, Baton Rouge Junior and Senior High Schools, and Louisiana State University, being a student prior to his enlistment in the United States Merchant Marine in August, 1941, at Baton Rouge. He was assigned to the USS Texas from August, 1941, to December, 1941. He served with the Standard Oil Tanker USS Allen W. Jackson December 25, 1941-January 18, 1942. This gallant young seaman lost his life in service with the U. S. Merchant Marine. The S. S. Carl Zachary Webb, Liberty Ship No. 159, named in his memory, was launched at Delta Shipyards in New Orleans on December 29, 1944. He was posthumously awarded the U. S. Merchant Marine Medal at New Orleans on National Maritime Day in May, 1943.





Joseph Milton Pairque

PFC, U. S. Marine Corps

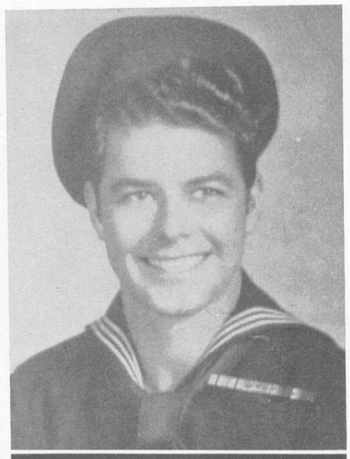
Son of Joseph Whitmel and Marie Vionie Pairque, 2544 North Street, Baton Rouge. He was born June 24, 1925, and attended Sacred Heart and Catholic High Schools, Baton Rouge, going from high school into the United States Marine Corps Reserve. Inducted September 23, 1943, at New Orleans, he served at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif., and Camp Gillespie, El Cajon, Calif., where he received paratrooper training. He went to the Pacific area in August, 1944, and served in Hawaii, Saipan and Iwo Jima, going into combat on Iwo Jima as an infantry rifleman with the Fifth Marine Division. This gallant Marine lost his life in combat for his country on Hill 362 on Iwo Jima. He was wounded February 28, 1945, and died aboard the hospital ship USS Solace March 2, 1945. He was interred on the Island of Guam in the Marianas. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, received by his parents April 12, 1945, and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with a Bronze Campaign Star for Iwo Jima.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Kenneth Luther Hodges

Watertender 1/C, U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Lynnie Burkley and Effie Hodges, 2316 Farrar Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born April 25, 1922, attended Hollywood School, and was employed by E. I. DuPont prior to entering the service. He was inducted July 30, 1942, at New Orleans, and received his training at the Coast Guard Training Station at New Orleans; Captain of Port Barracks, San Francisco, Calif., and was then assigned to the USS Eridonus. On October 21, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served throughout that area aboard the USS Long Beach. He participated in the Campaigns of Bismarck Archipelago, Aitape, Hollandia, Biak, San Sapor and Leyte. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with four Battle Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with one Battle Star, the American Theater of Operations Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans, October 4, 1945.



① Kenneth Luther Hodges

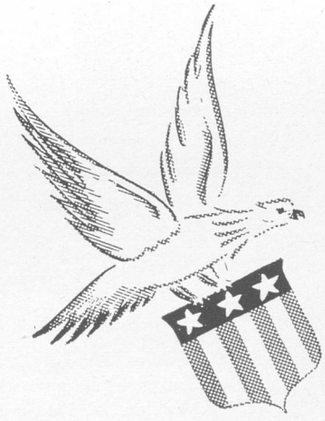
② Clarence Ray Newman

Corporal, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Ray and Lynnie Beatrice Newman, 2323 Iberia Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born September 6, 1924, and attended Istrouma High School, Baton Rouge Business College, Louisiana State University and Colgate University. He was inducted May 23, 1943, at New Orleans, and received his training at the Marine Corps Base, San Diego, Calif.; Camp Elliott, San Diego, Calif.; Camp LeJeune, N. C.; and Colgate University, Hamilton, N. Y. On August 11, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he served at Camp Tarawa, Hawaii, and at Iwo Jima, assigned to duty as runner and clerk. Corporal Newman participated in the Campaign at Iwo Jima. He is still in the service.



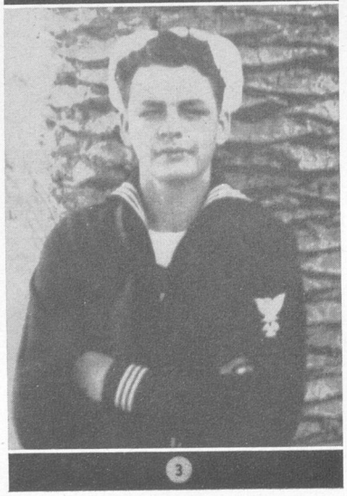
② Clarence Ray Newman



③ Alvin Felder Hodges

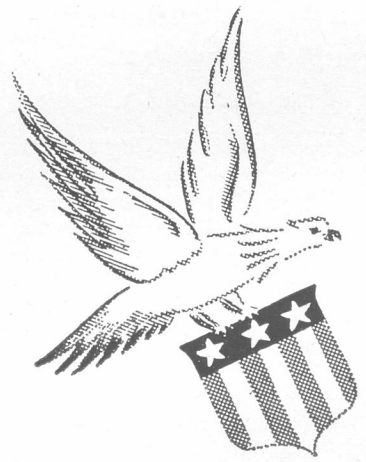
U. S. Coast Guard

Husband of Frances Smith Hodges, 2836 Modoc Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born March 19, 1917, attended Gilsburg School and Hollywood School, and was doing construction work for E. I. DuPont prior to entering the service. He was inducted July 30, 1942, at New Orleans, and received his training in New Orleans. He was then assigned to duty in Galveston, Texas, his duty being that of the maintenance of the Galvez Hotel. Also he was stationed on a pilot boat. He has the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on December 15, 1945, after three years and five months in the service. He is the son of Lyn Burkley and Effie Bennet Hodges, 2316 Farrar Street, Baton Rouge, La.



③ Alvin Felder Hodges





Eugene Wilson Latimer

Chief Fire Controlman, USN

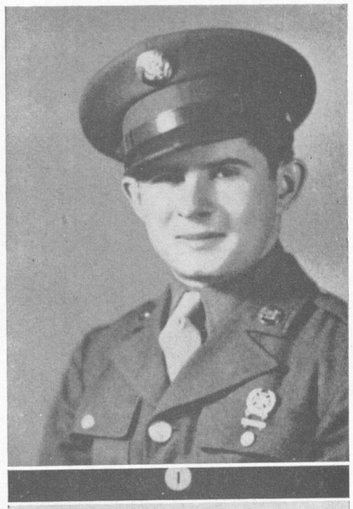
Husband of Ellen Wardell Latimer, 602 South Pierce Street, New Orleans, and father of Lani Jene Latimer. He was born May 29, 1913, and is the son of Mrs. Hollan F. Latimer of Poplarville, Miss. He is a graduate of Poplarville High School and attended the University of Tennessee and Loyola University of the South in New Orleans. He entered the United States Naval Reserve July 3, 1935, at New Orleans and was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station at Norfolk, Va. He served aboard the USS Saratoga, the USS Pompano and the USS Savannah, embarking in April, 1940, for Hawaii. Returning in October, 1941, he went to the European Theater and served in the North African Campaign. He was in the Invasion of Sicily at Tela and the Naval operations in support of the advance of the Seventh Army on Messina. He was in the Invasion of Italy in the bitter fighting on Salerno Beachhead and the Naval operations there. He had the American Defense Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal with three bronze Campaign Stars, World War II Victory Medal, the Purple Heart and the Good Conduct Ribbon. At the time of Eugene's death he was chief fire controlman on the USS Savannah.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Louis J. Constantino

Staff Sergeant, Army

Husband of Mrs. Jessie Rae Stafford Constantino, 141 West Buchanan Street, Baton Rouge, and father of Mary Elizabeth Constantino. Born May 31, 1924, the son of Agnes Haynes Constantino and Joe L. Constantino, he attended Baton Rouge High School and a welding school. He was employed as a welder prior to entering the Army of the United States in the Infantry November 9, 1943, at New Orleans. Staff Sergeant Constantino served at Camp Abbott, Ore., Camp Reynolds, Pa., and Camp Shelby. Embarking July 23, 1944, for the European Theater, he served in England, France, Austria, Germany, Belgium and Czechoslovakia. He was in combat as squad leader in a rifle company and served with the USAFA in Austria, in the Army of Occupation. Sergeant Constantino fought in the Campaigns of the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the Croix de Guerre awarded by the French Ministry of War, World War II Victory Medal, and the Belgian Fourragere. He was honorably discharged January 4, 1946, at Camp Shelby.



1

② George Peter Haynes

United States Army

Son of Mrs. Eva Sanchez Haynes, 141 West Buchanan Street, Baton Rouge. Born April 7, 1920, he attended Donaldsonville Catholic School, and was a bartender in a night club in civilian life, prior to entering the Army of the United States May 15, 1942, at Camp Shelby, Miss. He served with the Infantry at Camp Shelby and at Fort Ord, Calif., from which he was sent overseas, embarking September 30, 1942, for Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, in the South Pacific. He fought as an infantryman in the Russell Islands Campaign, in the New Georgia Islands, and on Munda Airstrip, New Georgia, where he lost his life in the bitter jungle fighting for Munda. The complete record of his stations is not known, but he had the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Purple Heart for the wounds which cost his life in fighting for his country on July 19, 1943, on Munda, New Georgia.



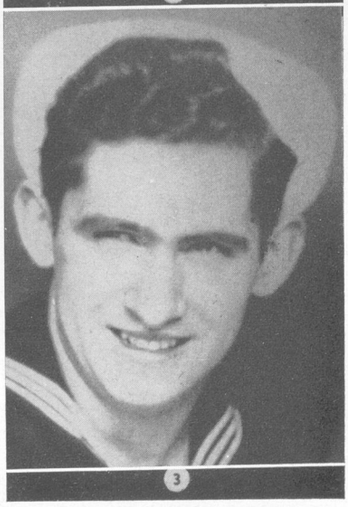
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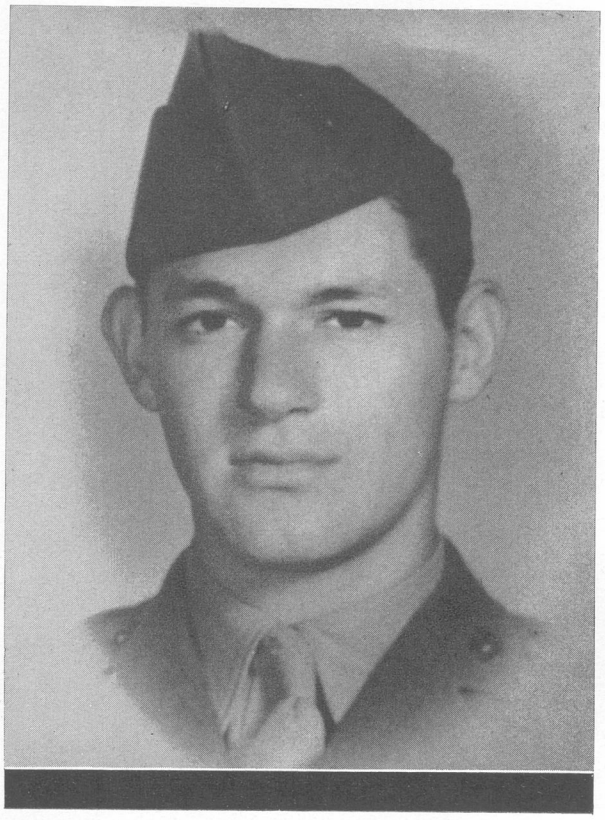
③ Joseph Constantino, Jr.

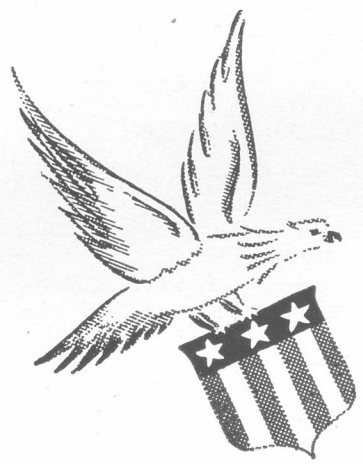
United States Navy

Son of Agnes Haynes Constantino and Joe L. Constantino, 141 West Buchanan Street, Baton Rouge. He was born January 28, 1927, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Catholic High School, Baton Rouge. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on January 3, 1945, at San Diego, Calif., he served at San Diego until going overseas on April 9, 1945. Embarking for Pearl Harbor and the Pacific area as a seaman aboard a baby carrier, he served at Pearl Harbor, Guam, Saipan, Midway, the Marshall Islands, Okinawa, Tokyo and Korea. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars for combat service in the Pacific with the United States Naval Reserve, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was continuing to serve with the United States Occupation Forces in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater.



3





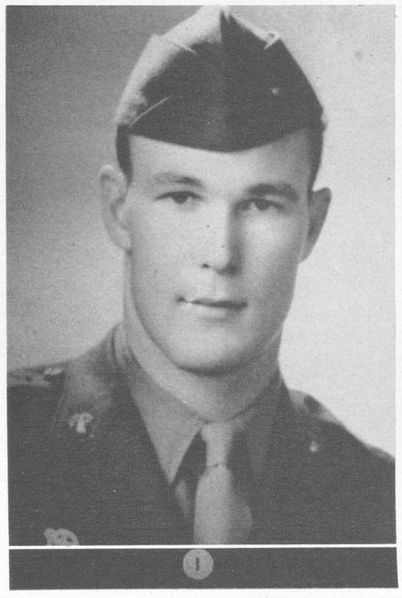
Forrest Paul Sanchez, Jr.

Private, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Paul Sanchez of 5026 Baton Rouge Avenue, Baton Rouge. He was born September 7, 1924, and attended Istrouma High School and St. Stanislaus College, Bay St. Louis, Miss. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve on February 15, 1943, at Baton Rouge and was assigned to the U. S. Marine Corps Base at San Diego, Calif., for training. At Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, he was assigned to the Fourth Marine Division, with which he departed to take part in the Invasion of the Marshall Islands in January, 1944. He was in combat against the enemy in the Marshalls at Roi and Namur, then fought on Saipan in the Mariana Islands, making the assault invasion landing near Garapan with the Fourth Marine Amphibious Force. Forrest Paul Sanchez, Jr., lost his life in action against the enemy June 15, 1944, in the Invasion of Saipan. He went ashore in the second wave of troops of the U. S. Marine Corps Amphibious Force, and was killed in combat. He is buried in the Fourth Marine Cemetery on Saipan. The Purple Heart was awarded posthumously, and he had the Presidential Unit Citation Badge, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, and Good Conduct Medal.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





① AURELIEN JOSEPH GAUDIN, JR.

Corporal, Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Aurelien Joseph Gaudin, 3224 Wyandotte Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born Aug. 29, 1925, and attended the Istrouma High School and Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La. He entered service on Nov. 30, 1943, at New Orleans, La., and was assigned to Camp Pendleton and San Diego, Calif., where he attended communications school. On May 31, 1944, he sailed for Pearl Harbor, Oahu, H. I. After six weeks he went to Guam as replacement in the Third Marine Division, 21st Marine Regiment. He served in the Guam and Iwo Jima operations, and was awarded the American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two Battle Stars, the Good Conduct Medal (Marine Corps), and the Victory Ribbon. He was honorably discharged at the Marine Corps Base, San Diego, Calif., on Feb. 1, 1946.

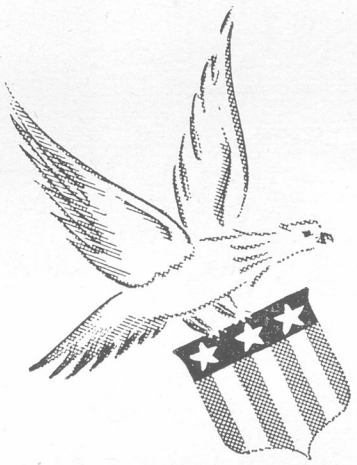


② ROY A. DARDENNE

Staff Sergeant, QMC, AUS

Husband of Rita Alice Babin Dardenne, 989 France Street, and son of the late John Alphonse Dardenne and Alice C. Trosclair of 422 St. Rose Avenue, Baton Rouge. He attended Baton Rouge Senior High School and Stanford University at Palo Alto, Calif., and was manager of a retail grocery concern prior to entering the Quartermaster Corps Nov. 11, 1942, at New Orleans. He served at Fort Warren, Wyo., Vancouver Barracks, Wash., Salem Air Base, Ore., Camp Adair, Ore., the Desert Training Center in California, ASTP at Stanford University, Camp Lee, Va., Fort Devens, Mass., and Camp Shanks, N. Y. He served as company clerk and supply sergeant. On Sept. 29, 1944, he embarked for Scotland and served as supply sergeant in Scotland, England, France, Belgium and Germany. Once he was in charge of food supply for 300,000 prisoners of war. He fought in the Campaigns of the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, Army of Occupation Badge, American Defense Service Medal and Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Nov. 6, 1945.



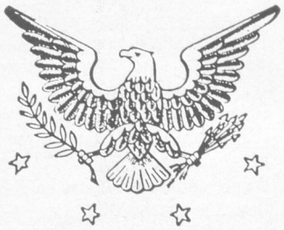


Hollie J. Dupre

Sergeant, Infantry

Son of Mrs. Florence Dupre of Greenwell Springs. He was born July 14, 1915, and attended Baton Rouge High School. He was with Coca-Cola Bottling Company prior to entering the Army of the United States Feb. 27, 1941, at Camp Livingston. Sergeant Dupre served at Camp Shelby, Miss., Camp Blanding, Fla., and Camp Bowie, Texas. He embarked for the European Theater of Operations on Sept. 25, 1942. He lost his life as a result of injuries received when the government vehicle which he was operating collided with a U. S. Army truck in Liverpool, England, on Aug. 4, 1943.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Warren Delphin Watts

② Edwin Ulla Watts

③ Charles W. Dougherty

④ Ivy Wendell Watts

⑤ Alvie Dougherty, Jr.

⑥ Vivian Lionel Watts

⑦ Oliver D. Noble

⑧ Andrew D. Noble

⑨ John T. Noble

⑩ Melvin Dennis Robinson

⑪ Charles I. Godso

⑫ Alfred Henry Godso

⑬ Riley Joseph Normand

⑭ Charles J. Schroeder

⑮ Alvin J. Schroeder

⑯ Shelby L. Schroeder

⑰ John Mellon Walsh

⑱ John Harrell Schroeder

⑲ Brice B. Achord, Jr.

⑳ Arthur T. Achord





① WARREN DELPHIN WATTS, Metalsmith 1/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ulla Ava Watts of Baker. He was born April 2, 1920, and attended Central High School and Louisiana State University. He was with Standard Oil of New Jersey, Louisiana Division, prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve Nov. 28, 1941, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, and the Submarine Repair Unit at San Diego, he embarked Oct. 10, 1943, for Midway Island via Honolulu. He served at the U. S. Naval Submarine Base on Midway and the U. S. Naval Submarine Base at Pearl Harbor, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, American Defense Service Ribbon, and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Nov. 23, 1945, at New Orleans.

② EDWIN ULLA WATTS, Watertender 3/C, USN

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ulla Ava Watts of Baker. He was born May 18, 1926, and completed Central High School prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve June 5, 1944, at New Orleans. He served at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Francisco, the Armed Guard School, Naval Repair Base, San Diego, Armed Guard Center Pacific, and with the SS Coquille and the USS Monitor LSV 5. He embarked for the South Pacific Oct. 13, 1944, and served in the Marshall Islands, the Carolines, the Gilberts, Manila and Japan. He was in combat in the Campaign of Okinawa and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Victory Ribbon. He was honorably discharged June 4, 1946, at New Orleans.

③ CHARLES W. DOUGHERTY, SP (V) 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvie Edison Dougherty, 3380 Wyandotte street, Baton Rouge, formerly of Baker. He was born Feb. 12, 1927, and attended Baker High School. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on Jan. 30, 1945, at New Orleans, he went to the United States Naval Training Center at San Diego, Calif., for recruit training and to the Naval Air Station at Alameda, Calif., for further training. On Aug. 16, 1945, he embarked for Honolulu, Hawaii, and served both at Honolulu and at the Naval Air Base on Guam. He was last assigned to duty on regular Naval transport plane flights to points in Japan and China.

④ IVY WENDELL WATTS, Aviation Ordnanceman 1/C

Husband of Julia Engels Watts of Baker and son of Mr. and Mrs. Ulla Ava Watts of Baker. Born Jan. 9, 1922, he attended Central High School and entered the United States Naval Reserve Aug. 25, 1942, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, he went to the Naval Training School at Norman, Okla., and served at the Naval Air Stations at Norfolk, Va., Banana River, Fla., Providence, R. I., and Alameda, Calif. Embarking Aug. 15, 1943, for the Caribbean area, he served in the British West Indies, then went to Saipan and the Palau Islands in the Pacific. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Marianas, the Caroline Islands, and Iwo Jima, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, Good Conduct and American Theater Medals. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans Oct. 10, 1945. He is the father of Veronica Ann Watts.

⑤ ALVIE DOUGHERTY, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Joyce Clark Doherty of Denham Springs and son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvie Edison Dougherty, formerly of Baker, of 3380 Wyandotte street, Baton Rouge. He was born Aug. 21, 1925, and entered the United States Naval Reserve on Feb. 10, 1944, going to the U. S. Naval Training Station at Farragut, Idaho, for training and went to the Puget Sound Navy Yard at Bremerton, Wash., then to the U. S. Naval Training and Distribution Center, Camp Elliott, Calif. On April 29, 1944, he embarked for Pearl Harbor and served on Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands. He served also with USS Cony DD 508, and at the Naval Repair Base in New Orleans. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and World War II Victory Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge at Charleston Navy Yard, S. C., on May 4, 1946.

⑥ VIVIAN LIONEL WATTS, Corporal, Artillery, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ulla Ava Watts of Baker. He was born in April, 1924, and attended Central High School, entering the Army of the United States March 29, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Camp Callan and Camp Haan, Calif., and at Fort Francis E. Warren, Wyo., assigned to gun crew duty and operating Artillery vehicles. He went to New Guinea March 16, 1945, and served there and on Luzon in the Philippines in the same capacity. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with Bronze Stars for the Southern Philippines and Luzon Campaigns, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal, American Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon and Meritorious Unit Award. He was honorably discharged Feb. 25, 1946, at Camp Fannin.

⑦ OLIVER D. NOBLE, Corporal, CE, AUS

He was born Jan. 22, 1923, and is the son of Mrs. O. D. Noble. He attended Central High School and was employed as a bus driver at the time of his induction into the Army March 16, 1943. Corporal Noble served with the Corps of Engineers at Camp Gruber, Okla., Camp Reynolds, Pa., Camp Chaffee, Ark., Fort Riley, Kan., Camp Shanks, N. Y., and Camp Rucker, Ala. On April 24, 1945, he embarked for LeHavre, France, and served at Rheims, Paris, Rouen and Marseilles. Deploying to the Pacific Theater, he served at Manila and Baguio on Luzon, Philippine Islands, assigned to duty with the Engineers, operating a truck. He has the Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, European Theater Ribbon, Meritorious Service Unit Award and Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Jan. 21, 1946.

⑧ ANDREW D. NOBLE, Sergeant, Army

Son of Mrs. O. D. Noble, Route 1, Baker. He was born Aug. 23, 1918, and attended Central High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the Army October 2, 1941, at Camp Livingston he served with the Infantry and Medical Corps. From Camp Wheeler, Ga., basic training, he went to Fort McClellan, Ala., as instructor in basic and to Fort Benning, Ga., Motor Mechanics School. He served at Fort Jackson, S. C., as non-commissioned officer, Infantry. On Feb. 19, 1944, Sergeant Noble embarked for the European Theater and served in England and France as non-commissioned Infantry officer. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on December 2, 1945.

⑨ JOHN T. NOBLE, Corporal, CAC, AUS

Son of Mrs. O. D. Noble, Route 1, Baker. He was born Dec. 8, 1915, and attended Central High School. He was engaged in farming at the time of his induction into the Coast Artillery Corps on March 14, 1941, at Camp Livingston. He served at Camp Hulen, Texas, and Fort Sill, Okla., assigned to duty as radio operator, and embarked for Luzon in the Philippine Islands on June 1, 1945. He served on Luzon as radio operator and truck operator with the Anti-Aireraft Artillery, and was in combat in the Battle for Luzon. He has the American Defense Service Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin Jan. 9, 1946.

⑩ MELVIN DENNIS ROBINSON, Captain, Medical, AUS

Husband of Pearl Elizabeth Noble Robinson, Greenwell Springs, and father of Gloria F. Robinson and Melvin Dennis Robinson, Jr. He was born April 16, 1907, son of William Henry Robinson, and attended Central High School and Louisiana State University. He was a physician at the time of entering the Army in the Medical Corps on March 1, 1941, at Camp Croft, S. C. Captain Robinson served at the Station Hospital at Camp Croft, S. C., and went to Trinidad, B. W. I., in January, 1943. He served in Trinidad, Puerto Rico and Cuba, assigned to duty with the Medical Corps in a Malaria Control Unit. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on Oct. 14, 1945.

⑪ CHARLES I. GODSO, Tec/4, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Mary Rosa Godso, 2734 Sycamore street, Baton Rouge. He was born Feb. 2, 1915, and was a tire retreader and welder prior to entering service October 2, 1941. He was assigned to Camp Livingston, Camp Shelby, Camp Wheeler, Fort Slocum and Fort Story for training and duty, and on Feb. 26, 1942, embarked for Bermuda, where he served as post guard and became cook Feb. 5, 1943. Returning to the States in September, 1943, he went to Camp Van Dorn, Miss., and Fort Benning, Ga. From Camp Pickett, Va., and Camp Stoneman, Calif., he embarked for Honolulu March 24, 1944. After jungle training he left July 9 for Guam and the fighting there. He landed on Leyte in the Philippines December 7 and fought there, then took eight islands in the Krema Rettos, and landed on Ie Shima where Ernie Pyle was killed on April 15. He fought through the Okinawa campaign prior to returning to the States Sept. 25, and was honorably discharged Oct. 16, 1945, at Fort Bliss, Texas. Charles Godso was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge for heroic achievement and exemplary conduct in the face of the enemy in the Leyte Campaign.

⑫ ALFRED HENRY GODSO, S/Sgt., Marine Corps

Husband of Mrs. Pearl Rita Godso, Port Allen. He is the son of Mrs. Mary Rosa Godso, Baton Rouge, and attended Catholic High School. He was a lens grinder in an optical shop prior to entering the United States Marine Corps July 6, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned to the Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif., to Camp Kearney Mesa, San Diego, and the U. S. Marine Air Station, Santa Barbara, Calif. On January 9, 1943, he embarked for New Caledonia, and was stationed at Noumea, New Caledonia, Efate in the New Hebrides, Guadalcanal in the Solomons, and Auckland, New Zealand. He was in combat in the Consolidation of the Solomon Islands with the Marines, and has a Presidential Unit Citation for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy. Staff Sergeant Godso was granted his honorable discharge at Santa Barbara Oct. 31, 1945.

⑬ RILEY JOSEPH NORMAND, T/3, U. S. Army

Son of Wilmore Paul Normand of Mansura, La. He attended Our Lady of Victory School and entered the armed forces July 25, 1941. Riley is the husband of Katherine S. Normand of Baton Rouge, La.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑭ CHARLES J. SCHROEDER, Sgt., Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Schroeder of Baton Rouge, La. He was born Nov. 10, 1910, and graduated from the Istrouma High School. He attended Louisiana State University (1943-44) and was employed in the U. S. Post Office prior to entering the armed forces. Charles entered the Air Force April 4, 1942, and received his basic training at Camp Robinson, Ark.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑮ ALVIN J. SCHROEDER, S/Sgt., Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Schroeder of Baton Rouge, La., was born July 26, 1919. He attended public schools in Baton Rouge and is a graduate of Istrouma High School. He entered the armed forces Sept. 26, 1940, at Barksdale Field, La., and was assigned to Davis Monthan Field, Ariz. He is a graduate of the Mechanical School at Chanute Field, Ill.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑯ SHELBY L. SCHROEDER, S/Sgt., Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Schroeder of Baton Rouge, La., was born Jan. 27, 1921. He received his education at Public Schools in Baton Rouge and is a graduate of Istrouma High School. Shelby entered the armed forces at Barksdale Field, La., Oct. 5, 1939, and was assigned later to Hunter Field, Ga.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑰ JOHN MELLON WALSH, Sgt., Air-Sea Rescue Squad

Son of Mrs. Louise L. Lawton of Little Compton, R. I. He was born Feb. 3, 1907, and attended the N. B. Borden Grammar School, B. M. C. Durfee High School. John is the husband of Garnet S. Walsh of Baton Rouge, La. He entered the armed forces May 2, 1941.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑱ JOHN HARRELL SCHROEDER,

Lieutenant Commander, Merchant Marine

Son of Joseph W. and Catherine E. Schroeder of Baton Rouge, La. He was born Dec. 13, 1912, and is a graduate of Istrouma High School. John is the husband of Elsie Roth Schroeder of 1434 Frenchmen street, New Orleans, La. He entered the Merchant Marine August, 1934.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑲ BRICE B. ACHORD, JR., Coxswain, U. S. Navy

Husband of Lucille Achord, 3505 Evangeline street, Baton Rouge, and father of Lillian Joan, Brice B. Achord III, and Barbara Lee Achord. He was born July 8, 1918, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Brice B. Achord, and attended Seventh Ward High School. He was a chemical operator for E. I. Dupont de Nemours prior to entering the United States Navy June 23, 1944, at New Orleans, from which he went to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., for boot training. Coxswain Achord received extensive amphibious training at Coronado, Fort Emery and Morro Bay, Calif., and embarked June 3, 1945, for the Pacific area where he served in the Marshall Islands, the Hawaiian Islands, and Iwo Jima as boat coxswain of small landing craft and other craft. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on Nov. 23, 1945.

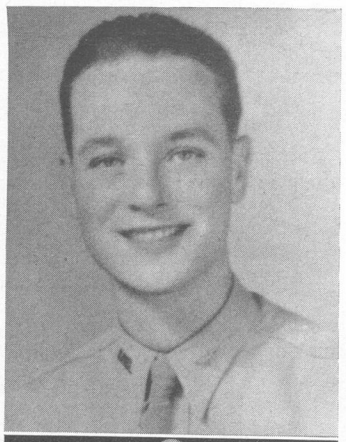
⑳ ARTHUR T. ACHORD, GM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. B. B. Achord of Route 2, Baton Rouge. He was born June 29, 1924, and attended Seventh Ward High School. Enlisting in the United States Navy (Submarines) on Dec. 28, 1941, at New Orleans, he went to the U. S. Naval Training Station at Norfolk, Va., for boot camp and to the U. S. Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Ill., for Gunnery School. He was assigned to the Naval Operations Base at New London, Conn., for Submarine School. On Aug. 6, 1942, he embarked for the Territory of Hawaii on sea duty and served with the USS Drum, the USS Halibut, the USS Tambour, and the USS Seafox. He fought in the Philippines, on Iwo Jima and on Okinawa and in eight successful war patrols not counted as major campaigns. He has the Submarine Combat Award, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Presidential Citation Award, and was honorably discharged at New Orleans on Dec. 1, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



1



2



3



4

① Nicholas J. Dixon

First Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Elise J. Doxon, Route 2, Baton Rouge. He was born Jan. 11, 1917, and attended Seventh Ward High School and Tulane University, receiving his B. S. degree in agriculture from LSU in 1940. He was with the Louisiana State Police prior to entering the Army Oct. 13, 1942. He was assigned to Fort Riley, Kan., Cavalry Replacement Training Center, then went to non-commissioned officers' school and trained recruits at the same camp and taught horsemanship. On Nov. 11, 1944, as a first sergeant, he embarked for the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations and was stationed in Ledo until he volunteered for behind-the-lines work with the Office of Strategic Service in April, 1945. Parachuting behind Japanese lines 400 miles southwest of Nanking, China, he accomplished harassing missions and the obtaining of information for air targets. He fought in the Campaigns of North Burma, Central Burma and the China Offensive, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Bronze Star Medal for heroic and meritorious achievement in action against the enemy, and the Good Conduct Medal.

② Wade C. Davis, Sr.

Sergeant, Air Force

Husband of Iris Smith and father of Wade C., Jr., he is the son of Mrs. Annie Doyle Davis, 1317 Concrete Drive, Baton Rouge, La., and attended Baton Rouge High School, University High Shcool and LSU. Prior to his service with the Air Corps he worked as tester for the Bell Telephone Company. He entered service Oct. 7, 1941, at Baton Rouge, La., and received his basic training at Camp Shelby, Miss. He later took flight training at Sheppard Field, Texas, for four months and assignments followed taking him to several posts throughout the nation. He attended gunnery school at Chanute Field and later became an instructor in this phase of training. With no calls for overseas duty he received an honorable discharge Nov. 10, 1945.

③ Dick Valentine Coor

Private First Class, U. S. Army

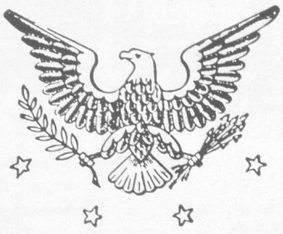
Husband of Alta Marie Ford Coor, and father of Dick Valentine, Jr., 6410 Joliet Avenue, Baton Rouge, La., he was born Oct. 28, 1914, attended Joseph Davidson High School, and was a motion picture projectionist prior to entering the service. He was inducted at Camp Beauregard on Nov. 13, 1942, and received his training at Camp Kohler, Calif., United Radio Television Institute, Newark, N. J., Camp Murphy, Fla., and the Army Air Base, New Orleans. On Oct. 8, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served for twenty-two months in England as Airplane Armorer, performing maintenance and repair on electronic control bomb release and bomb rack selectors. Private First Class Coor has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal and the Expert Rifleman's Badge. He was honorably discharged at Barksdale Field, La, Oct. 31, 1945. He is the son of Daniel Braxton and Adeline Valentine Coor, 6410 Joliet Avenue, Baton Rouge, La.

④ Stratos A. Christos, Jr.

Army of United States

Husband of Gennia S. Christos, 826 White Street SW, Atlanta, Ga. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stratos A. Christos, 254 South Nineteenth Street, Baton Rouge. He was born Feb. 28, 1926, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Georgia Military Academy. He entered the Army of the United States in April, 1944, at Atlanta, Ga., and was assigned for training to Camp Gruber, Okla., and Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif. Going to the European Theater of Operations, he served in France, Germany and Austria until after VE-Day. Redeployed to the Pacific area, he served in Luzon and Manila and was continuing to serve there with the Army of Occupation, prior to being returned to the States for his honorable discharge.

The FIGHTING MEN *of* LOUISIANA



① Jacob Alphonsus Myer

② Earl F. Sword

③ George Morris Hamilton, Jr.

④ Terrell Archer Goode

⑤ Luke W. Timberlake

⑥ Arthur A. Browning

⑦ Jewell Edward Harrington

⑧ Jesse W. Croft

⑨ Lonnie Waldemar Wilson

⑩ William A. Clark

⑪ Clyde A. Smith

⑫ Sterling Hinman Allen

⑬ Keith Henry Keowen

⑭ James Bertram O'Neal

⑮ Richard Morgan Carradine

⑯ Ira Wilcox Bingham

⑰ Nathan Joseph Ford

⑱ Roderick Joseph Babin

⑲ Richard W. Robinson

⑳ Milton James Crochet





① JACOB ALPHONSUS MYER, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Husband of Hettie Mae Myer and father of Beverly Rochelle Myer. He attended Pride High School and was a student prior to entering the Army Air Forces Sept. 3, 1942, at New Orleans. He trained at Blytheville Army Air Field, Ark., and served as an aircraft mechanic. On April 25, Staff Sergeant Myer embarked for the Philippine Islands and served as an aerial engineer in the Philippines, on Okinawa, and in the occupation of Japan. He fought in the Air Offensive over Japan, the South Philippines, Luzon and the Western Pacific, and has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Fort Bliss, Texas, on Dec. 15, 1945.

② EARL F. SWORD, First Lieutenant, AUS

Husband of Marion Kay Griffith Sword, New Orleans, formerly of Chester, Pa., and father of Carol Ann Sword. Born Sept. 7, 1919, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Sword, Hollywood Drive, Baton Rouge, and attended Istrouma High School, LSU, and a business college. He was with U. S. Department of Engineers, New Orleans, prior to entering the Field Artillery April 7, 1941. From Fort Bragg, N. C., he was assigned to the Seventh FA Observation Battalion and served at Camp Blanding, Fla., Camp Shelby, Miss., Fort Sill, Okla. (Officer Training School), and Fort Bragg. He served with the 694th FA Battalion at Camp Gordon, Ga., and Fort Sill, and trained as a liaison pilot at Pittsburg, Kan., and Fort Sill, after which he was assigned to the 580th FA Battalion, Camp Van Dorn, Miss., and Fort Sill, going overseas on Feb. 28, 1945, as Artillery Liaison Pilot, 84th Infantry Division Artillery, in Germany. He fought in the Rhineland and Central Europe.

③ GEORGE MORRIS HAMILTON, JR.,
Naval Air Corps, Crewman

Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Morris Hamilton, Baton Rouge. He was born Feb. 8, 1927, and attended Catholic High School, Baton Rouge High School, and LSU. He entered the Naval Air Corps Jan. 10, 1945, and was assigned to boot camp and radio school at the Naval Aviation Center at Memphis, Tenn. He went to Gunnery School at Purcell, Okla., and to Naval Air School, Melbourne, Fla. He served as a Naval Air Crewman at Cabaniss Field, Corpus Christi, Texas, and was continuing military duty in Naval Aviation following the cessation of hostilities on the world battlefronts.

④ TERRELL ARCHER GOODE, Tec/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Carl Goode, Baton Rouge. He was born June 17, 1924, and attended Baton Rouge High School and LSU. Entering the Army Aug. 13, 1943, at Fort Dix, N. J., he went to Camp Fannin, Texas, for basic training and to Fort Ord, Calif., overseas staging area, and Camp Stoneman, port of embarkation. On Feb. 27, 1944, he embarked for Honolulu, Hawaii. He served on Kauai Island, at Finschhafen, New Guinea, and Maffin Bay, Dutch New Guinea, on Luzon in the Philippine Islands, and at Kobe, Honshu Province, Japan, with the Army of Occupation. He was in combat at Wakde and Sarmi, in the Battle for Baguio on Luzon and the Battle for Finschhafen, New Guinea, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Victory Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and Combat Infantry Badge. He was honorably discharged Jan. 25, 1946, at Fort Monmouth, N. J.

⑤ LUKE W. TIMBERLAKE, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Bessie W. Timberlake of Baton Rouge, La., was born July 3, 1917. After graduating from Jena High School, he attended Northeast Center Junior College at Monroe, La. He next completed a one-year course at a Monroe business college and secured a job with the district office of the WPA at Alexandria, La. He entered the armed forces on Aug. 19, 1941, and was assigned to the Quartermaster Truck Company.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑥ ARTHUR A. BROWNING, U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren J. Browning of Greenwell Springs. He was born March 25, 1921, and attended Pride High School. He was an employee of Amite Sand and Gravel Company prior to entering the U. S. Coast Guard July 18, 1942, at New Orleans. He received training at United States Coast Guard Training Stations and was continuing to serve on Coast Guard duty following the cessation of hostilities on the world battlefronts.

⑦ JEWELL EDWARD HARRINGTON,
Tec/Sgt., SC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Glen Harrington, Baker. He was born July 25, 1919, and attended Istrouma and Central High Schools. He was with Gulf States Utilities prior to entering the Signal Corps in an Air Warning Battalion Oct. 3, 1941. He went to Camp Wheeler, Ga., for basic training and to Fort Moultrie, S. C., for Radar operations, serving in the same capacity at David's Shore, N. C. He was assigned to a cadre to form a new unit in Radar at Drew Field, Fla. On Dec. 29, 1943, he embarked for the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations where he served in England, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, Belgium and Holland in Radar operations directing bombing missions. He fought in Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the American Defense Service and American Theater Medals, the European Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was honorably discharged Nov. 16, 1945.

⑧ JESSE W. CROFT, S/Sgt., Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Croft, Zachary. He was born June 29, 1920, and attended Pride High School. He was engaged in construction work prior to entering the Army Jan. 9, 1942. From Camp Livingston, he went to Camp Wheeler, Ga., and Indiantown Gap, Pa., for training, then embarked for Auckland, New Zealand, on May 26, 1942, for jungle warfare training in New Zealand and the Fiji Islands. He was squad leader in a rifle company at Guadalcanal, Rendova, New Georgia, Vella La Vella, Bougainville, Luzon, Biak, and Leyte, and was in combat in the Campaigns of the Southern Solomons, the Northern Solomons and the Philippine Islands. Staff Sergeant Croft has the Purple Heart awarded May 7, 1945, at 60th General Hospital, Manila. He has the Silver Star Medal for gallantry and the Bronze Star Medal for heroic and meritorious achievement in combat, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and Philippine Liberation Ribbons with Campaign Stars, the American Defense Service, Good Conduct and Victory Medals and Combat Infantry Badge.

⑨ LONNIE WALDEMAR WILSON
AMM 3/C, U. S. Navy (AT)

Husband of Darlene Barker Wilson, Baton Rouge, and father of Michael Lonnie Wilson. He was born Sept. 25, 1921, and is the son of Mrs. Florence Pruitt Wilson. He attended Baton Rouge Senior High School and the American School of Welding, New Orleans, and was with Delta Shipyards as first-class electric welder for the Maritime Commission prior to entering the U. S. Naval Air Transport Oct. 2, 1942. He trained at the NRAB, New Orleans, and served at the U. S. Naval Air Station, Ottumwa, Iowa, with the night check crew. On Sept. 18, 1944, he embarked for Honolulu, Hawaii, where he checked R2000 Pratt and Whitney aircraft engines on C-54 Skymasters and rigged all controls for stability and safety, assigned to duty with the Naval Air Transport Command. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on Nov. 20, 1945.

⑩ WILLIAM A. CLARK, PFC, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Beverly E. Clark of Baton Rouge. He was born Oct. 26, 1923, and attended Baton Rouge High School. He was a student at LSU prior to entering the Army Air Forces at New Orleans on April 15, 1943. He received basic training at Sheppard Field, Texas, and was accepted for aviation cadet training at Oklahoma City University College Training Detachment and San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center. Reassigned at Keesler Field, Miss., he went from the Air Transport Command Replacement Center at Las Vegas, N. M., to Airplane and Engine Mechanics School, San Bernardino, Calif. He served as an airplane mechanic at Mather Field, Sacramento, Calif., then went to B-29 Electrical School, Seattle, Wash., where he became an electrical specialist, serving at Fairfield Army Air Base, Calif., as an aircraft electrician for the remainder of his term of duty with the U. S. Army Air Forces. He was honorably discharged Feb. 26, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Texas.

⑪ **CLYDE A. SMITH, Corporal, MD, AUS**

Husband of Mrs. Kathryn L. Smith, Baton Rouge, and son of Mrs. Maud Smith. He was born Dec. 18, 1923, and was employed as a pipefitter helper prior to his induction into the Army of the U. S. on March 16, 1943, at New Orleans. He served with a Medical Detachment at Camp Gruber, Okla., and has the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the American Theater of Operations Ribbon. Corporal Smith was granted his honorable discharge under the demobilization system on March 4, 1946, after three years of faithful and unselfish service.

⑫ **STERLING HINMAN ALLEN, Sergeant, Air Force**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Elwood Allen, Baton Rouge, La. He was born April 5, 1910, and is a graduate of Slaughter High School. He entered service July 7, 1942, and received basic training at Sheppard Field, Texas. Later assignments took him to Midland, Texas, Randolph Field, Texas, and Daniel Field, Ga. He sailed for Scotland Oct. 9, 1943, and saw duty in England and France at air bases in those sectors. His duties constituted the servicing of planes. His campaigns are those of Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. It was at Barksdale Field, La., Oct. 28, 1945, where he received his honorable discharge.

⑬ **KEITH HENRY KEOWEN, PFC, U. S. Army**

Husband of Murtis Keowen and son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Emitte Keowen of Baker. He was born Dec. 24, 1922, and attended Central High School. He was engaged in farming and construction work (Chicago Bridge and Iron Works) prior to entering Military Service in the Army on Jan. 27, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He received training at Camp Swift, Texas, where he was also assigned to construction work with the Combat Engineers, and embarked Oct. 8, 1943, for England. He served in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and Czechoslovakia with the Combat Engineers and fought in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the Purple Heart for wounds received on Normandy Beach on June 6, 1944, D-Day for the Invasion of Europe, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, Distinguished Unit Badge with Cluster, Bronze Arrowhead, Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was honorably discharged Dec. 20, 1945.

⑭ **JAMES BERTRAM O'NEAL, MoMM 2/C, USCGR**

Husband of Elsie Mae Wales O'Neal and father of James Ellis O'Neal. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Brunot O'Neal of Baton Rouge and attended Plaquemine schools, Baton Rouge Trades School, and was with Nadler's Machine Shop, Plaquemine, prior to entering the U. S. Coast Guard Aug. 31, 1942, at New Orleans (Algiers). He received his boot training at the U. S. Coast Guard Station at Algiers and went to Brownsville, Texas, for service with the COTP and as a member of the Shore Patrol. He also served in Norfolk, Va., under the COTP. He was also assigned to duty in Miami, Fla., with the U. S. Coast Guard. He has the Good Conduct Medal and was honorably discharged Oct. 3, 1945, at New Orleans.

⑮ **RICHARD MORGAN CARRADINE, Platoon Sergeant, U. S. Marines**

Son of Mrs. Winnie Lou Carradine, Baton Rouge. He was born Nov. 6, 1917, and attended University High School. He was with the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, Louisiana Division, prior to entering the U. S. Marine Corps Oct. 20, 1936, when he was at the Marine Corps Base, San Diego, and the Naval War College, Newport, R. I. Re-entering the Marines Jan. 20, 1942, he went from the MCB, San Diego, to the Fleet Training Base, San Clemente Island, as weapons instructor. He served at Camp Niland, Dunlap, Calif., as troop handler. Going overseas Dec. 26, 1936, he served in Shanghai with the Fourth Regiment, Marine Detachment, USS Augusta. Embarking May 23, 1943, for Hawaii, he served in the Ellice Islands (section leader, 40-millimeter gun battery), at Kavai, T. H., and was in combat on Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas as sector chief and battery gunnery sergeant. He has the New China Medal, Good Conduct Medals (Regular and Reserve), American Theater and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbons.

⑯ **IRA WILCOX BINGHAM, PhM 1/C, U. S. Navy**

Son of Mrs. Lula May Bingham, Baton Rouge, La. He was born Jan. 28, 1915, and attended LSU and Loyola University. Inducted Aug. 29, 1941, he received his training at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Pensacola; Naval Operating Base, Key West, and Naval Amphibious Training Base, Little Creek, Va. On Jan. 20, 1944, he embarked for Europe and served in Scotland, England and France, participating in the Normandy Invasion. He was honorably discharged at Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 9, 1945.

⑰ **NATHAN JOSEPH FORD, PFC, U. S. Army**

Lost his life in action against the enemy on the Carentan Peninsula near Cherbourg June 23, 1944. He was the son of Mrs. Esther Mary Martinez of 1027 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge, and was born June 18, 1925. He was a student at Catholic High School for Boys prior to induction Sept. 6. 1943, in the Infantry. He trained at Camp Gruber, Okla., and Camp Phillips, Kan., and went overseas March 12, 1944, to England and France. He took part in the Invasion of Normandy and the Battle for Cherbourg and died in the fighting around that great French port city, being buried in the U. S. Military Cemetery at St. Mere Eglise near Carentan and Cherbourg. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for military merit.

⑱ **RODERICK JOSEPH BABIN, Tec/5, Infantry, Army**

Son of Mrs. Adine Lambert Babin, Baton Rouge. He was born May 22, 1924, and attended Gonzales High School. He was a parts clerk, automotive and farm machinery parts, and was employed by International Harvester Company at New Orleans prior to his induction into the Army June 29, 1943, at Camp Shelby, Miss. From Camp Haan, Calif., where he served with the Coast Artillery Corps, Anti-Aircraft Artillery, he went to Camp Howze, Texas, IRTC, as rifleman, and Camp Polk as an armored infantryman. Embarking from Camp Kilmer, N. J., Nov. 7, 1944, he went to the European Theater where he served in England, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany, as rifleman, member of a pioneer platoon and Quartermaster warehouseman, and in Czechoslovakia with the Army of Occupation. He fought in the Campaigns of the Ardennes and Central Europe and has the American Theater and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbons, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged April 29, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

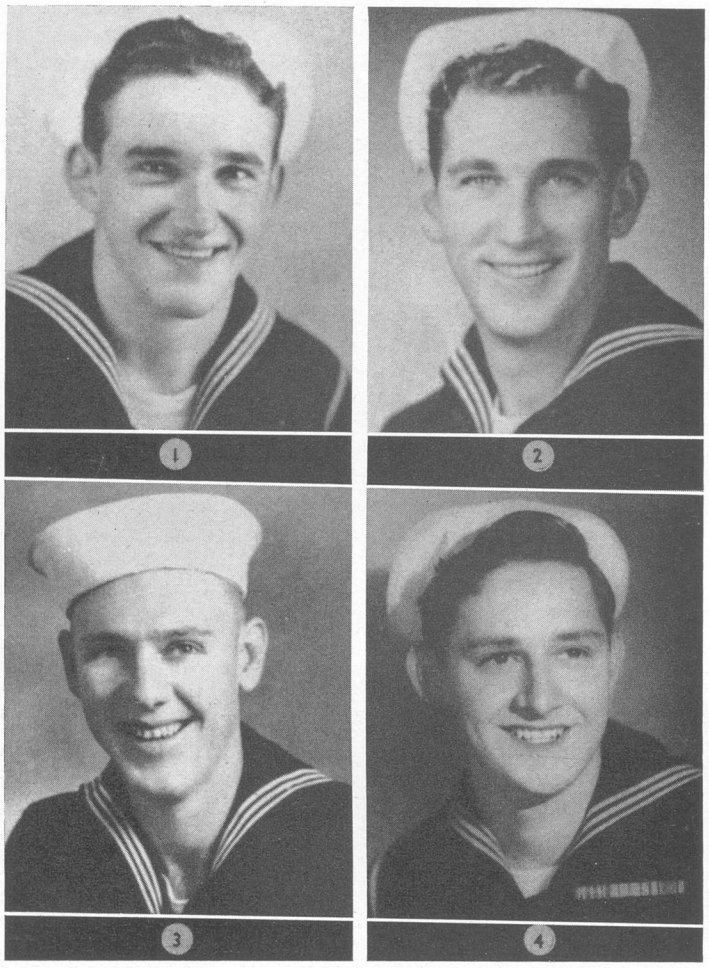
⑲ **RICHARD W. ROBINSON, Tec/4, CE, AUS**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Robinson of Pride. He was born on Jan. 7, 1919, and attended Pride High School. He was with E. I. Dupont de Nemours Company prior to entering the Army in the Corps of Engineers April 4, 1942, at Camp Shelby, Miss., where he received his basic training. On Oct. 19, 1942, he embarked from Camp Stoneman, Calif., for the Pacific Theater of Operations, landing in New Caledonia. He served on Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, New Georgia, Bougainville, Luzon, the North and South Philippines and Japan. He served in engineer construction work and the operation of heavy equipment, and was in combat against the enemy in New Georgia, two attacks on Bougainville, Luzon and the Philippines, returning to the States Oct. 9, 1945. Sergeant Robinson was honorably discharged at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 19, 1945.

⑳ **MILTON JAMES CROCHET, First Lieutenant, PI, AUS**

Son of Mrs. E. G. Crochet, Baton Rouge. He was born Sept. 2, 1919, and attended Istrouma High School. He joined the National Guard in February, 1939, and was called to active service Nov. 25, 1940. He trained at Camp Blanding and in the Louisiana and Carolina maneuvers, 1941, then went to Fort Fisher, N. C., and Fort Benning, Ga. (Officer Candidate School). He attended Parachute Infantry School, Lawson Field, Fort Benning, and was assigned to Fort Bragg, N. C. He went to Africa in March, 1943, and served also in Sicily and Italy. He fought in North Africa, Sicily, Naples-Foggia and Rome-Arno, and the spectacular battles of the Parachute Infantry at Salerno, Cassino and Anzio. Lieutenant Crochet lost his life in action in the bitter fighting on Anzio Beachhead on Jan. 25, 1944. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and had the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal and American Defense Service Medal.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



② Horace J. Langlois

Metalsmith 2/C, Navy Seabees

Son of Mrs. Annette Langlois, 5150 Byron Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born Jan. 13, 1923, and is a graduate of Istrouma High School. Prior to his service with the Seabees he worked as machinist's specialist. He entered service Jan. 12, 1943, at New Orleans, La., and received boot training at Camp Allen, Va. After advanced training at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., he was sent to the replacement depot at Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif. He sailed for Guadalcanal Sept. 7, 1943, and later saw duty in New Guinea, Admiralty Islands, Okinawa and Pearl Harbor. His duties were composed mostly of various types of construction in these areas, as metalsmith. He received his honorable discharge Nov. 29, 1945, at New Orleans, La.

③ Virgil G. Pray

EM 3/C, Navy

Husband of Jeannette Browning and father of Golda Jean and Charlotte Marie, Greenwell Springs, La. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Pray, Greenwell Springs, La., and was born Oct. 7, 1920. He is a graduate of Magnolia High School, Magnolia, Miss. Prior to his service in the Navy he worked as electrician at Standard Oil Company, Louisiana Division. He entered service Oct. 24, 1944, at New Orleans, La., and trained at U. S. Naval Training Station, Farragut, Idaho. Other assignments took him to San Diego, Calif., and San Bruno, Calif. Aboard USS Nenate AKA 36, he shipped out of both San Francisco and New York, with such ports of call as Manila and Panama Canal Zone. He was expecting release from the service on or about May 2, 1946.

① Gordon Lowell Spurgeon

United States Navy

Husband of Jean Freda Musselman Spurgeon of 1023 New Jersey Street, Lawrence, Kan., and son of Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth C. Spurgeon of Route 1, Baker. He attended Baker High School and Baton Rouge Trades School and was a stock clerk for the Louisiana Highway Department. On April 28, 1944, he entered the United States Navy at New Orleans and was assigned to boot camp at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif. He attended Electrician School at Lawrence, Kan., and served also at Shoemaker, Calif., embarking Nov. 16, 1944, for Pearl Harbor aboard a destroyer escort with which he served throughout the South Pacific. He was in combat in the Invasion of Iwo Jima and the Invasion of Okinawa and in a lone battle with an enemy submarine which was sunk. He has the Asiatic-Pacific and Philippine Liberation Ribbons, the American Theater Ribbon, and the Victory Ribbon.

④ Willie George Comeaux

Seaman First Class, USN

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weldon Comeaux, Route 3, Perkins Road, Baton Rouge. He was born Oct. 23, 1927, and attended Highland and Baton Rouge High Schools and National Schools (Radio) at Los Angeles, Calif. He was a radio repairman for Kirby-Bowers, Baton Rouge, prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve March 26, 1945. He served at Camp Elliott, Calif., and with Patrol Craft 801. He also served at the U. S. Naval Repair Base, San Diego. On Sept. 10, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific area, going to Pearl Harbor with PC 801. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Victory Ribbon. After the close of hostilities in the Pacific area he was continuing to serve with the United States Naval Reserve.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Eddie Stephen Aucoin

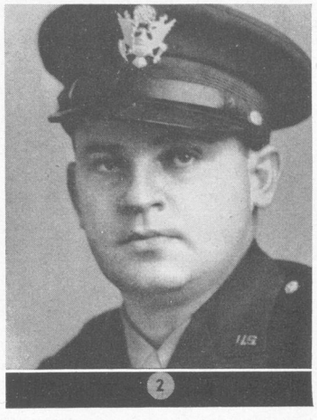
Major, Coast Artillery



Husband of Mildred Marie Bahm, 3605 Phillip Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born Dec. 26, 1912, and attended the Plaquemine High School, Plaquemine, La. Before entering the service on Sept. 8, 1940, he was assistant manager of a general merchandise store. He served in the United States as battery officer, Fort Preble, Maine; submarine mine battery commander, Fort McKinley, Maine; submarine mine battery commander, Fort Constitution, N. H.; and harbor entrance control officer and fort commander, Fort Stark, N. H. On August 23, 1945, he sailed for Luzon, Philippine Islands, serving later at Manila as control officer, engineer section, Headquarters Base X. He was awarded the following medals: American Defense, American Theater, Asiatic-Pacific Theater, Philippine Liberation, Victory, with five commendations. Upon his honorable release from active duty, March 7, 1946, he joined the Organized Reserve Corps.

② John Webb McGehee

Captain, MC, AUS





Husband of Louise Lowe McGehee, 339 Oakwood Drive, Baton Rouge, and father of Ann Elizabeth and Katherine Louise McGehee. He was born April 18, 1909, the son of Dr. and Mrs. John Webb McGehee of Baton Rouge, and is a graduate of Louisiana State University and of Louisiana State Medical Center. He was a physician and surgeon at Baton Rouge from 1937 to 1942, and entered the Army of the United States in the Medical Corps on May 11, 1942, at Roswell, N. M. He served at Roswell Army Air Field and also at Harlingen Army Air Field, Harlingen, Texas, as flight surgeon. On Dec. 13, 1942, he went to the Aleutian Islands where he served as Air Base Surgeon. He was assigned to duty in this capacity through the Aleutian Islands Campaign. Captain McGehee was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and American Theater of Operations Ribbons, and was granted his honorable release to inactive status on Dec. 10, 1945, at Harlingen, Texas.

③ Marshall Neel Buell

Lieutenant, U. S. Navy

Husband of Laura McGehee Buell, 2174 Wisteria Street, Baton Rouge. He was born Aug. 23, 1914, and is the son of Mr. Frank D. Buell, 1110 LaBoice Drive, Glendale, Calif. He was graduated from Louisiana State University in 1938, and was an industrial engineer with Gulf States Utilities Company. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on April 7, 1942, he attended the Fleet Sound School at San Diego and was assigned to the U. S. Naval Amphibious Training Base at Norfolk, Va., and the Sub Chaser Training Center at Miami, Fla. On Aug. 20, 1942, Lieutenant Buell embarked for the Solomon Islands (Guadalcanal) where he served as gunnery officer with the USS Paragon, Pacific Fleet. He served as executive officer, USS Seaward, Pacific Fleet, and as commanding officer, USS Enchantress, Pacific Fleet, of USS Tracer and USS SC 1075, Atlantic Fleet, and of USS Beachcomber, Pacific Fleet (Seventh Fleet). He was in combat in the Solomons Campaign (Savo Island and Guadalcanal) in October, 1942, and in the Invasion of Sicily in July, 1943. He also served in the Philippines (the Leyte Invasion), the Okinawa and Ie Shima. Wounded in the Guadalcanal-Savo fighting, he was awarded the Purple Heart received Oct. 13, 1942.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

① Lee Van Martin

② James Gassie Levert

③ Lester V. Quine, Jr.

④ Daniel Valmont Garon

⑤ Edward Eugene Morgan

⑥ Fred Carr Rube

⑦ Lewis Emile Lee

⑧ Sammie Joe Harris

⑨ Elgene Arthur Achord

⑩ Maurice John Soileau

⑪ Alex G. Dyer

⑫ Leslie Louie Hunt

⑬ George John Forbes

⑭ Louis Everett Spillman

⑮ Wedge Lieux Kyes

⑯ Jewell Anthony Garon

⑰ Robert Frederick McGowan

⑱ William James Galloway

⑲ Garland R. Watts

⑳ Paul Cook Wax



① **LEE VAN MARTIN, Seaman 1/C, U. S. N.**
Husband of Sybil Mae Martin and father of Barbara Lee Martin. He was born Aug. 22, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Martin of Denham Springs. He enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard July 18, 1942, at New Orleans, and was assigned first to the District Coast Guard Training Station, then to the Captain of the Port. He served on guard duty at Southwest Pass East Jetty Light and Fog Signal Station, and embarked from the Coast Guard Receiving Station on FS 227. From Alameda, Calif., he embarked on the USS Casper PF 12, and also served at U. S. Frontier Base, Treasure Island. On March 1, 1945, he embarked for the Southwest Pacific and served from Pearl Harbor aboard LT 358. He served with the Weather Patrol in the Southwest Pacific area. He has the American Theater of Operations, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations, and Coast Guard Good Conduct Ribbons. He was honorably discharged Oct. 15, 1945, at New Orleans.

② **JAMES GASSIE LEVERT, Shipfitter 3/C, USNRCB**
Husband of Lydia Elizabeth Levert and son of Omar J. Levert of Cinclare. He attended Brusly High School and Baton Rouge Business College and was with Standard Oil Company prior to entering the U. S. Naval Construction Battalions Jan. 6, 1942. From Camp Parks, Calif., he went to Norfolk, Va., for training and to Norfolk Naval Hospital, Portsmouth. He was also stationed at Advance Base Depot, Port Hueneme, and U. S. Naval Hospitals at Shoemaker and San Diego, Calif. He left the States in early June, 1942, for Suva, Fiji, in road and hospital construction with the Seabees, then went to Lautoka, Fiji, in hospital repairs. He left Fiji for New Caledonia in early June, 1943, for airstrip construction, construction of a plating shop for planes, and installation work in one of the South Pacific's largest hospitals. He also did repair and maintenance work on these units. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon. He was honorably discharged at San Diego, Calif., Aug. 29, 1946.

③ **LESTER V. QUINE, JR., MM 2/C, USNRCB**
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester V. Quine, Baton Rouge. He was born Oct. 31, 1925, and attended Fairfields, Baton Rouge Junior and Senior High Schools, and Trades School. Entering the U. S. Naval Construction Battalions Oct. 26, 1943, at New Orleans, he went to Camp Peary, Va., to Jan. 8, 1944, then to Camp Thomas, R. I. On Feb. 23, 1944, he embarked for Hawaii where he served for 15 months. He was in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, for seven months constructing airstrips. While with the Seabees he also completed a course in Diesel Engineering. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and the World War II Victory Ribbon, and was granted his honorable discharge on April 3, 1946, at New Orleans.

④ **DANIEL VALMONT GARON, MM 1/C, U. S. Navy**
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Garon, Baton Rouge. He was born March 6, 1919, and attended University High School. He was with Gulf States Utilities prior to entering the U. S. Navy March 7, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., for training and to the Destroyer Base in San Diego. On Nov. 17, 1942, he embarked for Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, as Machinist Mate aboard the USS Adnara and the USS Grafton. He was in combat at Guadalcanal, Bougainville and Okinawa, and also in the initial Naval invasion of Sasebo, Japan, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars and the Presidential Unit Citation Badge. He was honorably discharged at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans.

⑤ **EDWARD EUGENE MORGAN, Fireman 1/C, U. S. Navy**
Husband of Elaine Jessie Walker Morgan and son of Francis Eugene and Mamie Ann Coates Morgan of Greenwell Springs. He was born Sept. 24, 1927, and attended Central High School. He was with the Illinois Central Railroad as head brakeman, Currie's Service Station and Moran Printing Company prior to his induction into the U. S. Naval Reserve at New Orleans on May 2, 1945. From the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego he served with the Aircraft Carrier USS Cowpen CVL 25, embarking Oct. 29, 1945, for sea duty. He served at Pearl Harbor, Guam and Okinawa, and continued to serve with the Pacific Fleet in occupation duties. He was honorably discharged July 15, 1946, at New Orleans.

⑥ **FRED CARR RUBE, EM 2/C, U. S. Coast Guard**
Husband of Irma Foil Rube, Baton Rouge, and son of Mrs. Lillie G. Rube. A graduate of Baton Rouge High School, he was a Civil Service Electrician at the Louisiana State Capitol prior to entering the U. S. Coast Guard at New Orleans on July 29, 1942. He served at the U. S. Marine Corps Bases at St. George, Staten Island, New York, and at Government Island, Alameda, Calif. He was on sea duty aboard a 165-foot cutter in the North Atlantic and the European Theater of Operations, and aboard a 637-foot AP craft in the South Pacific. He is entitled to wear the American Defense Service Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Expert Rifle and Pistol Markmanship Badges. He was honorably discharged at San Francisco on Oct. 11, 1945.

⑦ **LEWIS EMILE LEE, Seaman 1/C, USN**
Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Brown Lee. He was born March 17, 1927, and attended Central and Pride High Schools, being a student prior to his induction March 17, 1944, into the U. S. Navy at Baton Rouge. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., he was assigned to Hedron, Fleet Air Wing 14, San Francisco, and departed aboard the USS Esperance, escort carrier, CVE 88, for service with Seventh Fleet Supply. He transferred to the Fifth Fleet on the Escort Carrier Cape Esperance as an active carrier. He was transferred to Pearl Harbor for special duty in Intelligence and Radar and returned to active carrier duty on the famed flattop, USS Hancock CV 19. Beginning his sea duty May 19, 1944, he fought in the First and Second Battles of the Philippine Sea, the Invasions of Saipan, Guam, Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and the Occupation of Japan. He has the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with five Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with two Stars, the Victory Medal, and the Purple Heart for wounds received in action.

⑧ **SAMMIE JOE HARRIS, Seaman 1/C, USNR**
Son of Carey Ellis and Eunice Ella (Sturdivant) Harris of Slaughter. He was born March 2, 1926, and attended schools in Arkansas and Baton Rouge. He was with an aluminum company in Baton Rouge prior to entering the U. S. Naval Reserve on Feb. 9, 1944, at Los Angeles, Calif. He was sent to Farragut, Idaho, for boot training, and embarked for Pearl Harbor April 29, 1944. Seaman Harris was in the Pacific operations from the Marianas through the occupation of Japan with the great aircraft carrier USS Essex. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with nine Bronze Campaign Stars, including the Marianas, the Battle for Leyte Gulf, the Battles for the Liberation of the Philippines, the China Sea Campaign, Okinawa and the Ryukyus Group, Formosa and the Naval fighting off Japan. He was honorably discharged at Bremerton, Wash., on May 5, 1946.

⑨ **ELGENE ARTHUR ACHORD, EM 3/C, U. S. Navy**
Husband of Jewell Braud Achord and father of Elgene Arthur Achord, Jr., and Jack Adair Achord. He was born Dec. 11, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Arthur Achord, Baton Rouge, and attended Istrouma High School. He was a meter and instrument mechanic for the Standard Oil Company prior to entering the U. S. Navy May 16, 1944, at New Orleans. He went to the U. S. Naval Training and Destroyer Center, Camp Wallace, Texas, and to the Naval Training Center, Gulfport, Miss., and was assigned to USN TADCEN, Shoemaker, Calif., and the USS Haynsworth DD 700. He embarked Jan. 3, 1945, for Ulithi in the Caroline Islands with Task Force 58 on the Destroyer Haynsworth, with which he took part as electrician's mate in strikes on Tokyo, Yokohama, Iwo Jima, Nagoya, Kobe, Kyushu, Honshu, Minami Daito and Okinawa, where his ship was hit by an enemy suicide plane. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon (three stars) and American Theater Ribbon.

⑩ **MAURICE JOHN SOILEAU, SSMB 2/C, U. S. Navy**
Husband of Norma B. Soileau, and ward of Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Sylvester, Baton Rouge. He attended Grand Prairie High School and entered the U. S. Navy Sept. 22, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Center at San Diego, and served also at the Naval Base at Shoemaker, Calif., and U. S. Naval Repair Base, Algiers. He was assigned to duty at Chickasaw Naval Barracks, Ala., and the Naval Air Station, New Orleans. He was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans Nov. 5, 1945, after more than three years of unselfish service.

⑪ **ALEX G. DYER, S 2/C, U. S. Navy**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Dyer of Greenwell Springs. He was born Aug. 12, 1924, and attended the Central High School. Before entering the armed forces, he was employed as a gravel hauler for the Amite Sand and Gravel Co. Alex is the husband of Mary Lee Graham of 527 Laurel Street, Baton Rouge. He entered the U. S. Navy March 29, 1943. (N. M. I. A.)

⑫ **LESLIE LOUIE HUNT, Merchant Marine**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Louie Hunt of Pride. He was born Oct. 8, 1926, and attended Zachary High School, LSU and the U. S. Maritime Training School at St. Petersburg, Fla. He entered the Merchant Marine at New Orleans Dec. 18, 1944, and embarked July 6, 1945, for sea duty. He went to Chile with the USS Henry Dearborn in April, 1945, prior to embarking in July for the Pacific area with the USS William Lester, going to Pearl Harbor. After the surrender of Japan he served in Manila and in Yokohama, Japan, and was serving in Korea and other points in the China-Burma-India Theater after the cessation of hostilities. He planned to serve with the Merchant Marine for at least two more years.

⑬ **GEORGE JOHN FORBES, MM 2/C, Seabees**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene F. Forbes. He was born April 8, 1913, and attended Deerford High School and Pride High School. He was in the trucking business for eight years and with E. I. Dupont de Nemours and Company for two years prior to induction into the U. S. Naval Construction Battalions April 24, 1942. He served on general detail, received military training, repaired heavy equipment, and received Diesel training at Camp Endicott, R. I., and Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, Calif. On Dec. 1, 1942, he embarked for Bermuda and served as a heavy equipment operator in Bermuda, Hawaii and Iwo Jima. He fought attached to the Fifth Marine Division during the Campaign for Iwo Jima and has one battle star on the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon. He also has the American Theater Ribbon and Good Conduct Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge Oct. 17, 1945, at New Orleans.

⑭ **LOUIS EVERETT SPILLMAN, SK 2/C, U. S. Navy**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Augusta Spillman. He was born Nov. 11, 1925, and attended Zachary High School. He joined the U. S. Naval Reserve on Jan. 18, 1944, at New Orleans and served overseas from April 5, 1944, to April 19, 1946, more than two years, aboard the USS Kitkun Bay CVE 71, in the Pacific Ocean. He was in combat at Saipan and Tinian (June-July, 1944), and Guam in the Marianas in August, at Peleliu and Angaur, Palau Islands, and on Ulithi in the Carolines in Sept. He fought at Leyte and Samar in the October landings and in the Second Surface Battle of the Philippines. He was at Luzon in January, 1945, and took part in the bombardment of Japan in July and August and the Occupation of Honshu and Hokkaido in September. He has the American Theater and Asiatic-Pacific Ribbons (five Campaign Stars), Philippine Liberation (two stars) and Victory Ribbons, and Presidential Unit Citation with Star.

⑮ **WEDGE LIEUX KYES, PhM 1/C, USNR**

Husband of Jacqueline Atkinson Kyes and son of Wedge Hawford and Leona Lieux Kyes of Baker. Born July 19, 1922, he attended Istrouma High School and LSU, and was a student prior to his induction into the U. S. Naval Reserve at New Orleans Jan. 2, 1942. Pharmacist Mate First Class Kyes went from the U. S. Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Ill., to the U. S. Naval Aviation Cadet Selection Board, Seattle, Wash., and the U. S. Naval Air Training Center, Lewiston, Idaho. On Jan. 22, 1942, he embarked for Pearl Harbor, T. H., going from the U. S. Naval Receiving Center to the U. S. Naval Air Station on Maui. He served with Headquarters and Service Company, Force Special Troops, Marine Garrison Forces, 14th Naval District, with Sixth Defense Battalion, Fleet Marine Forces, and at the U. S. Naval Operation Base, Midway Islands. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct and World War II Victory Medals. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on Nov. 24, 1945.

⑯ **JEWELL ANTHONY GARON, MoMM 1/C, U. S. Navy**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Josh Jewell Garon and a graduate of Sacred Heart, Catholic High School, and Baton Rouge High School. He was a service station manager prior to entering the U. S. Navy Sept. 7, 1942, and went to U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif. From Naval Service School (Diesel) at Columbia, Mo., he went to Treasure Island for assignment, embarking Jan. 1, 1943, for Noumea, New Caledonia. Assigned to the USS Fomalhaut, he served with that Ship from Feb. 8, 1943, until it was converted into an ammunition ship and assigned to the Service Fleet. He continued to serve with it as an ammunition ship in the Battle for Okinawa. Motor Machinist's Mate First Class Garon served in the Consolidation of the Solomons at Cape Toroquina and Bougainville, and in the Invasion of Saipan, and was with the Service Fleet at Okinawa. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and was honorably discharged Dec. 20, 1945, at New Orleans.

⑰ **ROBERT FREDERICK McGOWAN, MM 2/C, USNR (Seabees)**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Frederick McGowan, Baton Rouge. He was born Aug. 27, 1925, and attended Baton Rouge Senior High School. Entering the U. S. Naval Reserve Construction Battalion Sept. 21, 1943, at New Orleans, he was assigned to Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., for boot training. He served at Camp Endicott, Davisville, R. I., and Camp Holliday, Gulfport, Miss., both Advance Base Depots, and embarked from Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, Calif., June 6, 1944, for Engebi in the Marshall Islands. He served in the Marshalls and on Guam in the Marianas with Construction Battalion Maintenance Units. He served in the fighting on Engebi, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star and the American Theater of Operations Ribbon. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans April 1, 1946.

⑱ **WILLIAM JAMES GALLOWAY, U. S. Naval Seabees**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Edward Galloway, Baton Rouge. He was born July 14, 1925, and attended Catholic High School. He was an aircraft mechanic prior to entering the U. S. Naval Reserve (Construction Battalions) on Sept. 21, 1943, at Baton Rouge. He was assigned to Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., for boot training and went to Camp Holliday, Gulfport, Miss., port of embarkation. On Feb. 7, 1944, he embarked for overseas duty in Bawaki, Russell Group, Solomon Islands. From there he landed on Peleliu, Palau Islands, with a construction unit. He was in combat against the enemy in the Palau Islands. Following the cessation of hostilities, he was continuing to serve with the Seabees in the Pacific area.

⑲ **GARLAND R. WATTS, Water Tender 2/C, USN**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Watts. He was born April 8, 1926, and attended Baker High School. He was with Louisiana Creamery Incorporated at Baton Rouge prior to induction into the U. S. Naval Reserve April 4, 1944, at New Orleans. From there he went to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., and Fleet Service Schools, USN Repair Base, San Diego. He also attended Landing Craft School (Pacific) and served with USN TADCEN, Shoemaker, Calif., and aboard the two landing ships USS LST 354 and USS LST 801, AdComPhibs PAC, embarking Nov. 16, 1944, for Pearl Harbor. He was in combat in the assault landings on Iwo Jima and Okinawa Shima, and has the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge June 4, 1946, at the Naval Air Station in New Orleans.

⑳ **PAUL COOK WAX, MoMM 2/C, USN**

Husband of Eileen McCurnin Wax, and son of Mrs. Maud Cook Wax. He was born Nov. 14, 1912, and attended DuFrocq, Baton Rouge Junior High and Catholic High Schools. He was a timekeeper and recorder for Standard Oil Company prior to entering the U. S. Navy on July 20, 1942, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., he served as a swimming instructor with the Navy until going overseas Dec. 2, 1942, to Noumea, New Caledonia. He served at the Naval Ammunition Depot on New Caledonia and with the USS Menominee ATF 73, the USS Yog 79, and the USS YC 1138. He was in combat in the Invasion of Green Island, the Invasion of Emiru, the Invasion of the Palau Islands and the naval engagements of the Philippine Liberation. He was discharged at the Naval Separation Center with a certificate of honorable service on Sept. 28, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Beverly Comer Nabers

First Lieutenant, CE, AUS

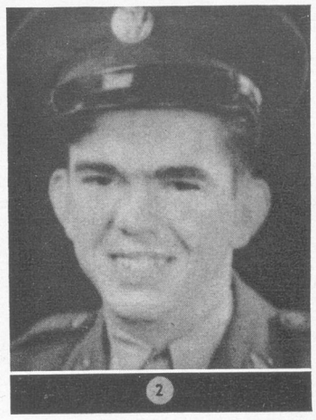
Husband of Nannie Sue Wilson Nabers and father of Bevelle Comer Nabers, 3044 Belmont Avenue, Baton Rouge. He was born Dec. 28, 1910, and is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Frank E. Nabers, 2700 Fourteenth Avenue South, Birmingham, Ala. He attended Shattuck School and Virginia Military Institute and was with Alpha Portland Cement Company, Manhattan Rubber Company, and Wheeling Corrugating Company prior to entering the Army of the United States in the Corps of Engineers at Camp Livingston on June 10, 1942. After basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., he went to Fort Belvoir, Va., as an officer candidate and to Jefferson Barracks, Mo., as a training officer. He served at Greenville Army Air Base, Greenville, S. C., as an Engineer Aviation Unit Commander and to MacDill Field, Fla., as a heavy equipment instructor. On April 28, 1943, Lieutenant Nabers went to Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands where he served at Wheeler Field. He also served on Guam in the Mariana Islands and on Okinawa in the Ryukyus Group as an Engineer Aviation Unit Commander, serving in succession from platoon leader to company commander. He fought in the campaigns of the Mandated Islands and the Ryukyus Islands. Lieutenant Nabers was granted his honorable release to inactive status at Fort Lawton, Wash., on April 10, 1946.



② Robert H. Slaughter

Sergeant, Air Corps

Husband of Alzada, Oil City, Okla. He was born July 30, 1921, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Slaughter, 2670 Eaton Street, Baton Rouge, La., and is a graduate of Central High School. Prior to entering service he worked as a truck driver. He joined the Air Corps Dec. 2, 1941, at Camp Shelby, Miss., and was sent to Sheppard Field, Texas, for basic training. His later assignments took him to Jackson, Miss., Columbia, S. C., Barksdale Field, La., Lake Charles, La., and March Field, Calif. His duties were comprised mostly of special vehicle operation. He was honorably discharged from the service Nov. 28, 1945, at March Field, Calif.





③ Eldred Collins Hays

Tec/Sgt., U. S. Army

Husband of Mary Grace Tilley Hays of Bryceland and son of Walter Clyde and Ora Lee (Snyder) Hays of Route 1, Arcadia. He was born Oct. 3, 1918, and attended Athens High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the Army Ground Forces Nov. 1, 1940, he served as supply sergeant, 62nd Signal Battalion, Fort McPherson, Atlanta, Ga., Camp Blanding, Fla., and Camp Claiborne. He served at New Orleans Port of Embarkation Staging Area in clerical work, and was assigned to Fort Dix, N. J., from which he embarked Nov. 1, 1942, for the Middle East. He served in Iran with the Persian Gulf Command in the Ninth Port of Embarkation, First Provisional Truck Company and Company K, 517th Trucking Regiment, on convoy duty from the Gulf of Persia to the Russian Border, assigned to duty for 18 months as staff sergeant convoy serial commander. He served as motor sergeant 13 months with the 3950th Quartermaster Truck Company. Technical Sergeant Hays has the European-African-Middle Eastern and American Defense Service Medals and the Good Conduct Medal, and was honorably discharged Sept. 24, 1945, at Fort Ord, Calif.

The FIGHTING MEN *of* LOUISIANA



① Wallace Peter Rivett, Jr.

② Erlin Joseph Crochet

③ Joseph Alvin Davide

④ Robert A. Hart III

⑤ Mary Carrie Kleinpeter

⑥ Thomas Gibbens Kleinpeter

⑦ Leon Richard Kleinpeter, Jr.

⑧ Luther Elton Wall

⑨ John Aubrey Landry

⑩ Marion A. Cangelosi

⑪ Wesley A. Stewart, Jr.

⑫ Darius Bertram Vohsberg

⑬ Alton E. Chemin

⑭ Stanley Lenwood Watts

⑮ Glenn Harelson Watts, Jr.

⑯ Boyd L. Kelly

⑰ Nathaniel Don Dezendorf

⑱ F. W. Dezendorf, Jr.

⑲ Albert S. Dezendorf

⑳ Conrad Peairs



① **WALLACE PETER RIVETT, JR.,**
Sergeant, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Peter Rivett of Brusly. He was born July 16, 1926, and attended North Highlands School, Junior High School and Catholic High in Baton Rouge. Entering the Army in the Infantry on Sept. 19, 1944, at New Orleans, he served at Camp Chaffee, Ark., Camp Fannin, Texas, Fort George G. Meade, Md., and Camp Butner, N. C. (as non-commissioned intelligence officer). He embarked for the European Theater Feb. 18, 1945, going to Glasgow, Scotland. He fought in France and Germany as a rifleman and was in combat in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe. Sergeant Rivett has the American Theater Ribbon, European Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct and World War II Victory Medals. He was honorably discharged March 10, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

② **ERLIN JOSEPH CROCHET,**
Chief Boatswain's Mate, USN

Husband of Geraldine Rivett Crochet of Baker, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Joseph Crochet of Labadieville. He was born Feb. 16, 1916, and attended St. Gabriel High School at St. Gabriel. He entered the U. S. Navy Sept. 20, 1939, at New Orleans and served on the battleship USS New York, on USS LCI (L) 40, and on USS LCS (L) (3) 95. Chief Boatswain's Mate Crochet served in the European area, the American area, the Mediterranean area and the Pacific area, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and American Theater of Operations Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on Oct. 13, 1945.

③ **JOSEPH ALVIN DAVIDE, United States Army**

Son of Louis E. Davide, 317 South Knox street, Baton Rouge, and husband of Loes M. Davide, Baton Rouge. He has two daughters, Carolyn Ann and Loes Marie Davide. He attended Baton Rouge High School, Catholic High School, and Coyne's Electrical School. Entering the Army of the United States on March 28, 1945, at New Orleans, he served with the Cavalry at Fort Riley, Kan., at Fort Ord, Calif., then went to Army Air Forces Technical Training Schools at Lowry Field, Denver, Colo., and Las Vegas Army Air Base, Las Vegas, Nev. He served with the Army Air Forces at Luke Field, Ariz., where he was granted his honorable discharge on March 1, 1946.

④ **ROBERT A. HART III, Chief Petty Officer, USN**

Husband of Janet Randolph Hart and son of Mrs. Pauline Hart and Robert Hart II, 518 Park Boulevard. He attended Baton Rouge High School, Gulfport Military Academy, and LSU, and was an electrical engineer. He entered the United States Navy in October of 1944, at Washington, D. C., and was assigned to duty at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory. He served with the Naval Ordnance Laboratory in Washington throughout his period of duty with the Navy, and was honorably discharged in October, 1945, at Bainbridge, Md.

⑤ **MARY CARRIE KLEINPETER, PR 3/C, USNR (Waves)**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leon R. Kleinpeter, Baton Rouge. She was born Feb. 25, 1922, and attended St. Joseph's Academy, Baton Rouge, and LSU. She taught high school home economics prior to enlisting in the Waves on April 20, 1944. She was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station at Hunter College, N. Y., for recruit training and went to Lakehurst, N. J., for Parachute Rigger's School. She served at the U. S. Naval Air Station at Norman, Okla., in packing and repairing parachutes and flight gear. Parachute Rigger Third Class Kleinpeter served with the Waves in this capacity throughout her term of military service with the United States Naval Reserve.

⑥ **THOMAS GIBBENS KLEINPETER,**
Lieutenant, Army Air Forces

Husband of Lenora Sell Kleinpeter, formerly of St. Paul, Minn., now of Baton Rouge, and father of Thomas Gibbens Kleinpeter, Jr. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon R. Kleinpeter, Baton Rouge, and attended Catholic High School of Baton Rouge and St. Stanislaus College, Bay St. Louis, Miss. Lieutenant Kleinpeter entered the AAF on Oct. 14, 1943, at Camp Beauregard and was assigned to Keesler Field, Biloxi, Miss., as a basic trainee. He went to Stillwater, Okla., with a College Training Detachment, and to San Marcos, Texas, for on-the-line training. He received pre-flight training at San Antonio, Texas, primary flight training at Chickasha, Okla., basic flight training at Sherman, Texas, and advanced flight training at Victoria, Texas, going to Brooks Field, Texas, for transition. He was last assigned to Sioux Falls, S. D., Army Air Base, for separation.

⑦ **LEON RICHARD KLEINPETER, JR.,**
MoMM 3/C, United States Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon R. Kleinpeter, Baton Rouge. He was born July 11, 1919, and attended Catholic High School, Baton Rouge, and LSU. He entered the U. S. Naval Reserve on Aug. 1, 1944, at New Orleans and was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., from which he went to the U. S. Naval Training Center at Gulfport, Miss., and the Sub Chaser Training Center at Miami. He also served at the U. S. Naval Repair Base at New Orleans and at Camp Wallace, Galveston, Texas. He served on sea duty with the USS Sebastian AK 211.

⑧ **LUTHER ELTON WALL, PhM 1/C, USN**

Husband of Vera Murphy Wall, Baton Rouge. He was born Feb. 14, 1924, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Luther Wall, and attended Natalbany Grammar School, Independence High School, and Kentwood High School. Entering the U. S. Naval Reserve on May 13, 1942, at New Orleans, he went to the U. S. Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Ill. He served at the U. S. Naval Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas, the U. S. Naval Hospital in New Orleans, at the U. S. Naval Repair Base in New Orleans and in Miami. On July 18, 1943, he departed for Coco Solo in the Panama Canal Zone where he served at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Coco Solo. Pharmacist Mate First Class Wall has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal, and was granted his honorable discharge (battleship) at the Naval Air Station Separation Center, New Orleans, Sept. 29, 1945.

⑨ **JOHN AUBREY LANDRY, Sergeant, U. S. Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ira Landry, Baton Rouge, La. He was born Sept. 26, 1923, and attended Istrouma High School. Inducted Feb. 23, 1943, he received his training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. On Feb. 27, 1945, he embarked for the European Theater where he participated in the campaigns at Po Valley, Rome-Arno and North Apennines. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, the Distinguished Unit Badge, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., Dec. 11, 1945.

⑩ **MARION A. CANGELOSI, Sergeant, U. S. Army**

Husband of Mrs. Lou Cangelosi, Baton Rouge, and father of Marion A. Cangelosi, Jr., and Bonnie Lou Cangelosi. He attended Catholic High School, St. Paul's College at Covington, and was manager of Glynn's Lanes prior to entering the Army in January, 1944. He served with the Transportation Corps at Camp Plauche, New Orleans, and Camp Beale, Calif., and with the Medical Corps at Fort Lewis, Wash., and Camp Shelby. In June, 1945, he embarked for the Marianas Islands and served on Tinian and Saipan with the Medical Corps. After the cessation of hostilities in the Pacific he continued to serve with the Medical Corps on Saipan with the occupation forces until his honorable discharge on April 5, 1946, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Sergeant Cangelosi holds the American Theater Campaign Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Award, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon and the Good Conduct Ribbon.

⑪ **WESLEY A. STEWART, JR., Sergeant, FA, Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley A. Stewart, he was born May 23, 1926, and attended Istrouma High School. Entering the Army on July 11, 1944, he served at Fort Sill, Okla., as a basic trainee and in the Motor School, at Fort George G. Meade, Md., processing for overseas duty, and at Camp Shanks, New York (POE). He de-

parted for the European Theater March 22, 1945, and served as a mechanic in France, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Austria. He was in combat in the Campaign of Central Europe and served also with the Army of Occupation, assigned to duty with the U. S. forces in Austria, Headquarters Company, in Vienna, as a mechanic. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Ribbon and Army of Occupation Ribbon.

⑫ DARIUS BERTRAM VOHSBERG, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Husband of Mrs. Nora M. Vohsberg, Wellingborough, Northants, England. He was born Dec. 14, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse C. Jamison, Baton Rouge. He has one son, Richard John Vohsberg. Sergeant Vohsberg attended Magnolia Junior High and Baton Rouge High School and LSU. He entered the Infantry Nov. 25, 1940, and trained at National Guard Barracks, Baton Rouge, Camp Blanding, Fla., Fort Fisher, N. C., and Camp Bowie, Texas. He went to England Sept. 25, 1942, and was stationed at Broadway Camp, Wellingborough, Northants, U. S. Assault Training Center, Woolacombe, Devonshire, St. Denis, Cornwall and Derby, Derbyshire. He fought in Northern France and was stationed at St. Malo, Rennes, St. Nazaire, Paris, Flamanville and at Mons in Belgium. After an overseas term of duty which lasted from Sept. 25, 1942, to Aug. 25, 1945, Sergeant Vohsberg was honorably discharged Aug. 25, 1945.

⑬ ALTON E. CHEMIN, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Dave C. Chemin of Greenwell Springs. He was born Feb. 21, 1920, and was with Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, Louisiana Division, prior to entering the Army in the Infantry on Oct. 2, 1941, at Camp Livingston. He served at Fort Custer, Mich., prior to going to the European Theater of Operations, and served as a Browning Automatic Rifle gunner for the entire three years which he spent in the military service. He served in England, Ireland and France, and fought at St. Lo, Brest and Metz and was wounded near Nancy Nov. 19, 1944. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon, Purple Heart and Combat Infantry Badge and the American Defense Service Ribbon, and was discharged May 30, 1945.

⑭ STANLEY LENWOOD WATTS, Corporal, Army of U. S.

Husband of Helen Hooper Watts and father of Lenwood Stanley Watts. Born July 19, 1912, son of Abbie McAdams Watts and George E. Watts, Baton Rouge, he attended Central High School and was a mechanic with Standard Motors prior to entering the Army Dec. 15, 1942, at New Orleans. He served at Fort Lewis, Wash., the Desert Training Center in California, and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., embarking Oct. 21, 1943, for the European Theater where he served in England, France, Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia as a troubleshooter in communications in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes and Central Europe. He has the Certificate of Merit, Good Conduct Medal and European Theater Ribbon with five Bronze Campaign Stars and Bronze Arrowhead. He was honorably discharged Aug. 20, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑮ GLENN HARELSON WATTS, JR., Corporal, Marine Corps

Husband of Jo Ann Mosbrucker Watts and father of Jack Glenn Watts. He was born Jan. 7, 1926, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Harelson Watts of Baton Rouge. He entered the U. S. Marine Corps at New Orleans May 24, 1943, and was assigned to Marine bases at Santa Barbara, Calif., San Diego, Calif., El Toro, Calif., and Mojave, Calif., as a parachute rigger. On March 29, 1945, he embarked for Pearl Harbor assigned to duty on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier. He fought with the Marines at Okinawa and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star and the American Theater of Operations Ribbon. On Feb. 1, 1946, he was honorably discharged at San Diego, Calif.

⑯ BOYD L. KELLY, PFC, MD, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Kelly of Deerford. He was born June 22, 1916, and attended Pride High School. An employee of Standard Oil Company, Louisiana Division, he entered the Army May 14, 1941, at Camp Livingston and served in the Medical Department at Fort Bragg, N. C., with a medical detachment at Station Hospital No. 3. He served at Camp Atterbury in Indiana with the Medical Detachment, Eighth General Hospital. He also served at Schick General Hospital, Clinton, Iowa, with the Eighth General Hospital, Medical Detachment. On May 14, 1943, he went to New Caledonia, where he served with the Eighth General Hospital, Medical Detachment. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on Oct. 9, 1945.

⑰ NATHANIEL DON DEZENDORF, EM 2/C, USNCB

Husband of Eunice Ella Harris Dezendorf and son of Mrs. Ella Knox Dezendorf and Fredric William Dezendorf of Baton Rouge. He was born Aug. 4, 1924, and attended Baton Rouge High School. He was an electrician at the time of his induction into the U. S. Naval Construction Battalions at New Orleans on May 19, 1943. He went to Camp Peary at Williamsburg, Va., for boot training and to Camp Endicott, Davisville, R. I., for further training, then to Camp Holladay at Gulfport, Miss. He embarked in December, 1943, for New Caledonia and served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations assigned to duty as an electrician with the Seabees. He was granted his honorable discharge at the Naval Air Station in New Orleans on Dec. 11, 1945.

⑱ F. W. DEZENDORF, JR., Shipfitter 1/C, USNCB

Husband of Mildred W. Dezendorf, Baton Rouge, son of Mrs. Ella Knox Dezendorf. He was born Nov. 20, 1910, and attended Rosenthal and Bolton High Schools in Alexandria, and University High in Baton Rouge. Entering the U. S. Naval Construction Battalions on Jan. 30, 1942, at New Orleans, he went to the Naval Operating Base at Norfolk, Va., Port Hueneme and Camp Parks, Calif. On April 12, 1942, he embarked for American Samoa with the Second Battalion, Fifth Detachment, U. S. Naval Seabees, with which he served on Wallis Island. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and the American Theater of Operations Ribbon. Returning to the States, Shipfitter Dezendorf was granted his honorable discharge (medical) at the U. S. Navy Convalescent Hospital at Banning, Calif., on Feb. 9, 1945.

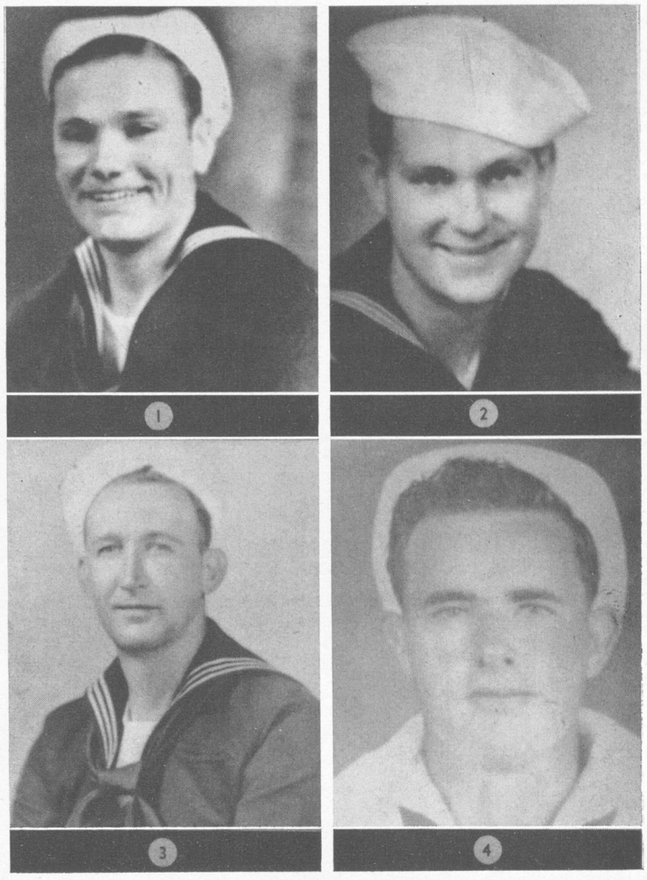
⑲ ALBERT S. DEZENDORF, Tec/5, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mrs. Ella Knox Dezendorf, Baton Rouge. He was born Oct. 30, 1919, and attended Rosenthal Grammar and High Schools. He was employed as a pipefitter prior to his induction into the Army Sept. 24, 1940, at Baton Rouge. Technician Fifth Grade Dezendorf served at Camp Blanding, Fla., Camp Bowie, Texas, and Fort Fisher, N. C. He went to the European Theater Sept. 25, 1942, and served in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal with three Bronze Campaign Stars. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on June 17, 1945.

⑳ CONRAD PEAIRS, Corporal, AF, AUS

Son of Mr. Robert Isaac Peairs of Deerford. He was born April 21, 1916, and attended Zachary High School and LSU. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to entering the Army in the Armored Force on June 3, 1942, at Camp Livingston. He received basic training at Fort Knox, Ky., and served in communications with armored units at Camp Polk, Camp Coxcomb, Calif., and Fort Benning, Ga. On June 7, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater where he served in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He also has the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action against the enemy. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Nov. 3, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Walter Wagley Harrelson

AMM 3/C, Navy Air Corps

Son of Mr. S. J. Harrelson of Baton Rouge, La., he was born March 26, 1922. He attended the Baton Rouge High School and also completed one year at Louisiana State University. Upon completion of his education, he entered the armed forces. This was in 1943.

(N. M. I. A.)

② Sam James Harrelson, Jr.

No information available.

③ William T. Ott

Seaman 2/C, Coast Guard

Husband of Elma Arnold, Watson, La. He was born Jan. 7, 1904, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Elliot Ott, Watson, La., and is a graduate of Live Oak High School. He entered service Sept. 2, 1942, at New Orleans, La., and received training at Camp Harahan, New Orleans, La. Later he was assigned to Panama City, Fla., where he took up his duties until 1943. Seaman Ott had no assignments that took him outside the United States. His duties confined him to ports along the Gulf Coast. He was separated from the service of the United States Coast Guard July 6, 1943, at Panama City, Fla., with an honorable discharge.

④ Martin Hicks

MoMM 3/C, U. S. Coast Guard

Husband of Julia-Mae Arnold Hicks of Watson, La. He was born Dec. 16, 1916, graduated from Villa Rica High School in Villa Rica, Ga., and worked at the Standard Oil Company of Louisiana before entering the service. He was inducted on Aug. 22, 1942, at New Orleans, La., and received his boot camp training at Camp Harahan, New Orleans, and then graduated at Higgins Landing Barge School after receiving his training there. After embarking from this country, he served thirty-four months of sea duty with the Bar Pilots and the River Pilots at Port Eads, and at Southwest Pass. He received an honorable discharge at New Orleans, La., on Sept. 7, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Radford Hicks (both deceased) of Villa Rica, Georgia.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Clarence Percy Gilmore

② Howell Clayton Cobb

③ William Jasper Lawson

④ Fellman Joseph Babin

⑤ Wade Nolan Decker

⑥ Robert Edward Decker

⑦ Louis Charles Langlois

⑧ Joseph Richard Langlois

⑨ Louie Floyd Kent

⑩ Robert Ray Kent

⑪ Clarence Joseph Melancon

⑫ Doyle Bernard Melancon

⑬ John Webster Sharon

⑭ Nathaniel V. Sharon

⑮ Edlyn Daniel Sharon

⑯ James Quincy Cockerham

⑰ Marion L. Wolf

⑱ Henry William Wolf

⑲ Robert S. Wolf

⑳ Harold Louis Wolf

① CLARENCE PERCY GILMORE, Radio Technician 2/C, USN

He was born Feb. 8, 1926, and attended St. Gabriel High School, Catholic High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the U. S. Naval Reserve Feb. 2, 1944, he reported to the U. S. Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Ill., and attended Manley Pre-Radio School, Chicago. He served also at Gulfport, Miss., Navy Pier, Chicago, and San Francisco, Calif. Assigned to the USS W. C. Langfith AP 151, he went to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and served at the Naval Operating Base at Guiuan, Samar, Philippine Islands, with the USS H. T. Allen AG 9, at the U. S. Naval Base on Morotai in the Dutch East Indies and with USS LSM 151 and USS LSM 130. Embarking in April, 1945, he fought in the Borneo Invasion, Dutch East Indies, and the Philippine Liberation Campaigns, and in the Occupation of Japan. He was discharged May 21, 1946.

② HOWELL CLAYTON COBB, Lieutenant, U. S. Navy

He was born July 1, 1915, the son of Thomas B. and Alma Robinson Cobb, and is a graduate of Louisiana State University. He was with American Creosoting Company when he entered the Naval Reserve April 13, 1942. From U. S. Naval Midshipman School at Columbia University, he went to the Amphibious Training Base, Solomons, Md., returning as instructor. Embarking for the South Pacific Feb. 6, 1943, he served at Guadalcanal, Tulagi, Rendova, New Georgia and Bougainville as commanding officer, LCI (L) and LCI (G) craft, and on Okinawa as commanding officer of an LCS (L). He was in the occupation of Guadalcanal and the initial landings on Rendova, Vella Lavella (Treasury Islands), Bougainville and Okinawa. He has the Silver Star for the Southwest Pacific and a second award for Okinawa.

③ WILLIAM JASPER LAWSON, Fireman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Jasper Lawson, he was born Dec. 8, 1926, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the Naval Reserve on Dec. 6, 1944, he reported to the Naval Training Station at San Diego as an apprentice seaman and also attended Electrical School at Gulfport, Miss. On Sept. 1, 1945, he embarked for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and served at the U. S. Naval Ammunition Depot on Samar in the Philippines. Returning to the States June 18, 1946, he was assigned to duty on the Aircraft Carrier USS Belleau Wood CVL 24 at Alameda, Calif. He served with this ship for 13 days. Returning to New Orleans, Fireman First Class Lawson was discharged July 26, 1946.

④ FELLMAN JOSEPH BABIN, M/Sgt., U. S. Army

He attended Dutchtown High School and was a butcher by occupation prior to entering the Army Nov. 4, 1941. From Camp Livingston and Camp Claiborne he went to Camp Shelby, Miss., for advanced training and to Keesler Field, Miss., as drill instructor. At Casey Jones School of Aeronautics, Newark N. J., he received airplane mechanics training and was assigned to Herbert Smart Airport, Macon, Ga. He embarked Dec. 12, 1942, for Casablanca and served in Africa, Sicily, Italy, Egypt, Palestine, Bethlehem, the Belgian Congo and the African Gold Coast, as a mechanic and flight engineer. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Ribbon and American Theater Ribbon. He was discharged Nov. 24, 1945.

⑤ WADE NOLAN DECKER, Seaman 1/C (M) DS, USN

He was born April 24, 1921, and attended Pride High School. He was engaged in construction work prior to entering the Navy Sept. 25, 1943. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, Dan Diego, he was assigned to ANTS, Treasure Island, Calif., and Diving School, Tiburon, Calif. He embarked Sept. 29, 1944, for Pearl Harbor and served with a salvage unit there. With the USS Valve ARS 28, he served in the Marshall Islands, the Mariana Islands, the Volcano Islands (Iwo) and the Ryukyu Islands. He was a deep-sea diver and had 300-350 underwater hours in harbor clearance on Saipan, Iwo and Okinawa, in water from 35 to 180 feet deep. He was discharged Dec. 23, 1945.

⑥ ROBERT EDWARD DECKER, BM 2/C, U. S. Coast Guard

Husband of Mrs. Wilma Forbes Decker. He is the son of Mrs. Annie Decker of Deerford and was born Nov. 10, 1907. He attended Julius Freyhan High School, St. Francisville, and had been with the U. S. Army and the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, Louisiana Division, when he entered the Coast Guard July 6, 1942. He served at Coast Guard stations at the Southern Yacht Club, New Orleans, ACP Gulfport Base, Gulfport, Miss., with Mobile Port Security, Mobile, Ala., and at COPT, New Orleans. He was discharged Sept. 13, 1945, after more than three years of unselfish and efficient service.

⑦ LOUIS CHARLES LANGLOIS, RM 2/C, U. S. Navy

Attended Catholic High School and was a clerk in the Division of Employment Security prior to enlisting in the U. S. Navy Dec. 15, 1941, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., he embarked for sea duty Jan. 15, 1942, with the USS Pruitt DM 22, engaged in mine laying with the Commander Central Pacific Force, attached to the Fleet Commander's Staff. He served with the Fifth Fleet and the Flagships USS Indianapolis (heavy cruiser), USS New Jersey (battleship), USS New Mexico (battleship), covering more than 150,000 miles of the Pacific Ocean. He served in the North and South Pacific, Invasion of Attu and Kiska in the Aleutians, Invasion of Tarawa and Makin in the Gilberts, Majorio, Poi-Namur, Kwajalein, Eniwetok, Truk, Palau, Saipan, the Philippine Sea, Tinian, Guam, Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the home islands of Japan. He has the American Defense Service and American Theater Ribbons, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with nine Stars, Good Conduct and Philippine Liberation Ribbons.

⑧ JOSEPH RICHARD LANGLOIS, AM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Margaret Eileen Kelly Langlois, and son of Mrs. Berthlia Armstrong Langlois. Entered the Air Service May 2, 1927, served with CASU 6, Alameda, Calif., and at Camp Shoemaker. He embarked for sea duty with the USS California Oct. 31, 1941, for Pearl Harbor, T. H. He also served with the USS Chicago's aviation unit and the USS Copahee. He was stationed in Sidney, Australia, Wellington, New Zealand, the Fijis, Samoa, Brisbane, Australia, and in New Caledonia and New Georgia. He operated with the famed Anzacs from Australia. He fought in the Coral Sea, at Guadalcanal, Pearl Harbor, Bougainville, in the Marshalls and Gilberts.

⑨ LOUIE FLOYD KENT, Tec/5, U. S. Army

Husband of Mrs. Betty Daetwyler Kent and son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kent. He was born Dec. 15, 1915, and attended Pride Grammar and High Schools. He was with Standard Oil of Louisiana prior to entering the Field Artillery Nov. 4, 1941. He served as a field linesman at Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont, Pine Camp, New York, A. P. Hill Military Reservation, Virginia and Tennessee, and Fort Dix and Camp Kilmer, N. J. On Oct. 21, 1943, he embarked aboard the USS Scrthia for Avonmouth, Port of Bristol, England. He was a switchboard operator at St. Audrie's Camp, Somerset County, England, and on Omaha Beach, Normandy. He served in Luxembourg and was at Malmedy in the Battle of the Bulge. He served in Brussels, Belgium, Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, Walendorf Hill in the Siegfried Line, Germany, St. Jaun and Metz, France, and Versailles. He fought in the campaigns of the Ardennes, the Rhineland, Central Europe, Normandy and Northern France. He has the American Defense Service and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbons and the Good Conduct Medal.

⑩ ROBERT RAY KENT, Army Air Forces

He was born Sept. 8, 1923, and attended Pride High School and Spencer Business College. He was a government purchasing agent prior to enlisting in the AAF May 27, 1943, from Amarillo Army Air Base, he went to Chanute Field, Ill., for Weather Observers' School. He was assigned to March Field, Calif., as an observer and to Daggett Municipal Airport, Calif., as administrative clerk. On Nov. 10, 1944, he embarked for the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations and served in Calcutta, India, as a weather observer, and Chengtu, China, as a cryptographer. He served throughout the China Campaign and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with one Campaign Star and the Chinese Victory Medal.

⑪ **CLARENCE JOSEPH MELANCON,**
Tec/Sgt., Infantry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Rodolph Paul Melancon. He was born July 22, 1922, and attended Beauregard and Catholic High Schools. He was with National Shirt Shops prior to entering the Army in the Infantry July 27, 1943. He was assigned for training to Camp Adair, Ore., and joined the 81st Infantry at Camp Beale, Calif. On June 30, 1944, he left for Hawaii, arriving July 8, 1944, to prepare for the Palau operation. He was on the beachhead at Angaur Sept. 17, 1944, embarking for New Caledonia and a period of relief from combat Feb. 21, 1945. He went to Leyte with his division when they replaced the 77th Division there May 18, 1945. From Leyte in the Philippines he went to Honshu Province, Japan, with the Army of Occupation. Returning to the States, Sergeant Melancon was discharged Feb. 22, 1946.

⑫ **DOYLE BERNARD MELANCON, GM 2/C, USN**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Rodolph Paul Melancon. He attended Beauregard and Catholic High Schools and was a clerk with the Department of Public Welfare prior to entering the U. S. Naval Reserve on Oct. 16, 1942. From boot camp at the Great Lakes, Ill., he was assigned to the light cruiser USS Birmingham, with which he began sea duty June 8, 1943. He took part in the initial attack and invasion of Sicily and the bombardment of shore objectives July 10-26, 1943, and the attack on Tarawa Sept. 18, 1943, and Wake Oct. 5-6, 1943. Other combat includes the Treasuries, Bougainville (1943), the Marianas (Guam and Tinian), the Western Carolines, Southern Palau Islands, and assault on the Philippines. He was in the Third Fleet at Leyte, Okinawa, Northern Luzon and Formosa, in the battles for Luzon and Leyte Gulf, and the naval assaults on Iwo Jima, Ie Shima and Okinawa Gunto as gunner's mate.

⑬ **JOHN WEBSTER SHARON, Corporal, SC, Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Slaughter Sharon and was born April 20, 1921. He attended Wyandotte School and Istrouma High School and was a service station manager prior to entering the Army in the Signal Corps on July 7, 1942, at New Orleans. From Camp Beauregard he went to Camp Crowder, Mo., for Signal Corps basic, then to Drew Field, Fla., as a radar operator and to Camp Shanks, N. Y., port of embarkation. On May 14, 1943, he embarked for Brisbane, Australia, and served at Townsville, Australia, Milne Bay, New Guinea, Salamau, New Guinea, Lae, New Guinea, Finschafen, New Guinea, Sansapor, Dutch East Indies, Luzon, Philippine Islands. Corporal Sharon served as power plant repairman, radar operator and motor sergeant. He was in combat in the Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, and Luzon, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, Nov. 30, 1945.

⑭ **NATHANIEL V. SHARON, Sergeant, U. S. Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Slaughter Sharon. He was born Feb. 14, 1913, and was a baker at Plaquemine prior to entering the armed service on Nov. 25, 1942. He received basic training at camps in Alexandria prior to embarking on April 25, 1943, for the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations. Tech Sergeant Sharon was in combat against the enemy in five major campaigns, the Invasion of Sicily, Naples-Foggia (Salerno), Rome-Arno (Anzio), the Northern Apennines and the Po Valley. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with five Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Bronze Arrowhead signifying assault invasion of enemy country over the beaches in an amphibious charge. He was granted his discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Nov. 5, 1945.

⑮ **EDLYN DANIEL SHARON, Radioman 3/C, USNR**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Slaughter Sharon. He was born Jan. 27, 1925, and attended Wyandotte and Istrouma High School. He enlisted in the U. S. Navy on May 27, 1943. He went to San Diego, Calif., for training at the U. S. Naval Training Station there, then to Boulder, Colo., for Radio School and New Orleans, port of embarkation. On Jan. 3, 1944, he embarked for Brisbane, Australia. He served in the Admiralty Islands on Manus as a radioman and on Dutch New Guinea at Hollandia and at Manila, Philippine Islands, in the same capacity. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one bronze Campaign Star, the American Theater Ribbon, and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged on April 3, 1946.

⑯ **JAMES QUINCY COCKERHAM,**
M/Sgt., Quartermaster Corps

Son of Mrs. Mary L. Cockerham. He was born Oct. 3, 1917, and attended Selma High School and LSU. He was a secretary-stenographer prior to entering the Army Sept. 20, 1943. He was assigned to Camp Lee, Va., for training with the Quartermaster Corps and embarked May 3, 1944, for Plymouth, England, as secretary to Quartermaster Depot Commander, serving in the same capacity at LeMans and Rheims in France. He was in combat in Normandy, Northern France, and the Rhineland, and has the Good Conduct Medal, the Certificate of Merit, and the Meritorious Service Unit Badge. He was discharged on Feb. 18, 1946.

⑰ **MARION L. WOLF, EM 3/C, USNR**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wolf. He was born Dec. 14, 1923, and attended Baton Rouge High School, Southeastern Louisiana College and LSU. Entering the Naval Reserve on Nov. 15, 1943, he served at the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, assigned to Electrician's Mate School. On June 21, 1944, he embarked for the New Hebrides, going from Espiritu Santo aboard the USS California as electrician's mate. He fought in the Invasion of Leyte, the Battle for Leyte Gulf, and the Invasion of Luzon in the Philippine Islands, and the Okinawa Invasion. He has the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged May 21, 1946.

⑱ **HENRY WILLIAM WOLF, BM 1/C, U. S. Navy**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wolf. He was born Jan. 10, 1911, and attended Baton Rouge High School and LSU. Entering the Naval Reserve on March 6, 1942, in New Orleans, he served at the U. S. Navy SEC Base at Mobile, Ala. Embarking in February, 1943, for the Central Pacific, Boatswain's Mate First Class Wolf served in Bermuda, Okinawa and Saipan. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and was awarded the Navy Good Conduct Ribbon. He was discharged at the Naval Air Station in New Orleans.

⑲ **ROBERT S. WOLF, Tec/Sgt., AAF**

Husband of Dorothy Stevens Wolf and father of Donald Robert Wolf. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wolf, and was born June 24, 1919. He attended Baton Rouge High School and Perkinston Junior College. Inducted into the Army Air Forces on Feb. 10, 1942, he went to Keesler Field, Miss., Salt Lake City AAB, Utah, Wendover Field, Utah, and Boca Raton AAF, Fla., assigned to duty as mess sergeant. In September, 1942, he went to the European Theater where he served in England as mess sergeant with the AAF. Technical Sergeant Wolf was in action in the Air Offensive over Europe and the Invasion of Southern France with the Eighth Air Force. He has the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, and was discharged Oct. 31, 1945.

⑳ **HAROLD LOUIS WOLF, Baker 1/C, U. S. Navy**

Husband of Athalie Larguier Wolf, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wolf. He was born March 15, 1915, and attended Magnolia and Catholic High Schools. He was in the sales department of Wolf's Bakery prior to his induction into the Naval Reserve on Nov. 5, 1942. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, he went to the U. S. Naval Training Center at Farragut, Idaho, the NSD at Oakland, Calif., and the ABSTC at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va. On Oct. 12, 1944, he went to the Pacific area in which he served at Pearl Harbor, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He was discharged on Oct. 1, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

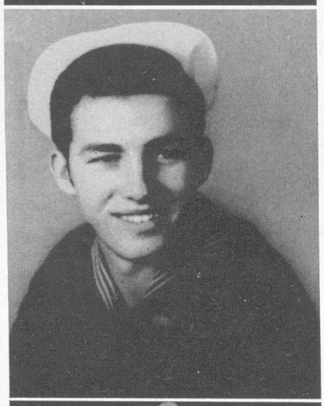


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① Ray James Spillman

Corporal, USMCR

Husband of Christine Rebowe Spillman, 518 North 25th Street, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Ruben C. Spillman. He has a daughter, Gwen Rae Spillman. He was born Jan. 11, 1918, and was graduated from Central High School in 1936. He was with Standard Oil of New Jersey, Louisiana Division, prior to active service, and was a member of Company A, 156th Infantry, Louisiana National Guard, 1935-1936. Entering the United States Marine Corps in November, 1936, he went to the Marine Corps Base, San Diego, for boot training, and served on guard duty at Norfolk Navy Yard, Portsmouth, Va., from October, 1939, to November, 1940, then at the U. S. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla. In January, 1937, he went to Shanghai, China, with the Marines and served in China until July, 1939. He fought in the China Campaign, and the Defense of the International Settlement during the undeclared war between China and Japan, 1937-1939. He has the American Defense Service Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the China Service Badge, the Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal, the Marine Good Conduct Medal, and the China Expedition Medal. He was re-enlisted in May, 1945,

② Sidney Ezra Browning

Private, U. S. Army

Husband of Fannie Louise Richard Browning and father of Roxie Ann, Maurice, Douglas, Virginia and Sylvia Jean Browning, of Greenwell Springs, La. He was born Nov. 4, 1915, and attended Central High School. Prior to entering the service he was employed as an electrician. Inducted March 28, 1945, at Camp Chaffee, Ark., he received his training at Camp Chaffee, Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., and at Fort Ord, Calif. He was then assigned to duty as a rifleman. After eight months of active service, Private Browning was given a dependency discharge on Nov. 16, 1945, at Fort Ord, Calif. His parents, formerly of Greenwell Springs, are both deceased.

③ Alvin Howard Norton

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

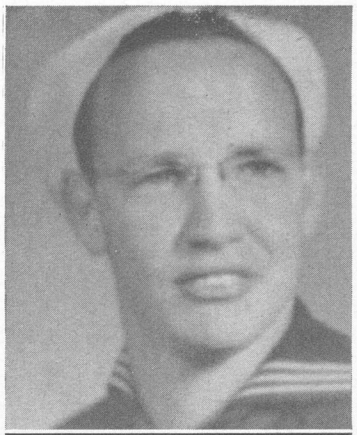
Husband of Marjorie E. Norton, 3847 Evangeline Drive, Baton Rouge, La. He was born Dec. 17, 1922, and attended Istrouma High School. He was inducted Sept. 25, 1942, at Sheppard Field, and he received his basic training there; his preflight training at San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center, and further training at Tulsa, Okla., Houston, Texas, Selman Field, La., Savannah, Ga., and Avon Park, Fla. On Sept. 4, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served in England as aerial gunner, participating in the air battle over Germany. He has the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, three Battle Stars, and the Presidential Citation. He was honorably discharged at Barksdale Field, La., Oct. 27, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Norton, Sr., 4010 Clayton Drive, Baton Rouge, La.

④ Wilburn Morris Fleniken

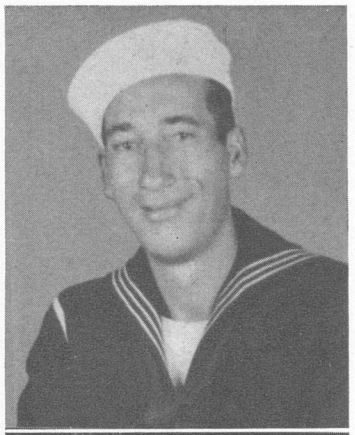
Seaman Second Class, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Fleniken, Route 4, Baton Rouge. He was born Aug. 25, 1927, and attended Central High School. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on Feb. 21, 1945, at New Orleans, he was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., then went to Camp Elliott, Calif., for assignment to sea duty. On Aug. 10, 1945, he went to the Pacific area and was assigned to duty with amphibious craft, serving at Pearl Harbor, Eniwetok, Guam, Okinawa, at Tientsin, Taku and Shanghai, China, transporting troops, and in the occupation of Japan. He had the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Amphibious Forces Insignia, World War II Victory Medal, and was expecting his honorable discharge in August, 1946, while continuing to serve in the Pacific area.

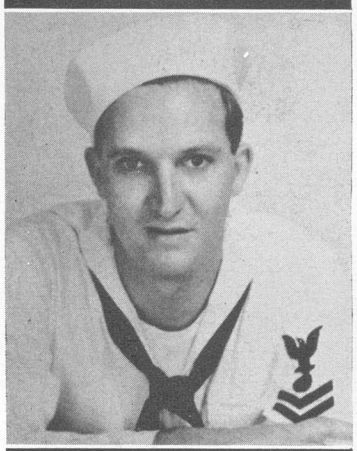
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Robert E. Cobb

Coxswain, USNR

Husband of Betty Marie Cobb and son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Cobb, 2225 Galvez Street, Baton Rouge. He was born Sept. 21, 1925, and attended Central High School and Gulf Coast Military Academy. On Sept. 14, 1943, he entered the USN Reserve at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., he went to the U. S. Naval Repair Base, San Diego, Calif., the Amphibious Training Base at Coronado, Calif., and Camp Shoemaker. He embarked Jan. 28, 1944, for Navy 131, New Caledonia. He served with Navy 145, Guadalcanal; Navy 60, Russell Islands; Navy 152, Tulagi (Florida Islands). On his second tour of overseas duty Dec. 26, 1945, he served at Pearl Harbor and Eniwetok and at the Naval Air Base, Kwajalein, Marshall Islands, assigned to duty as coxswain of small boats, standing boatswain's mate watches, and on shore patrol. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and American Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Victory Medal, and the Naval Unit Commendation. He was honorably released under the point system at Shoemaker, Calif., on April 7, 1946. Coxswain Cobb also served at USNRB, New Orleans.

② Leon Pierre Bordelon

Ship Serviceman Third Class, U. S. Navy

Husband of Matilda Friedricks Bordelon and father of Hazel Ann Bordelon, 306 South 18th Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born Jan. 22, 1912, attended Baton Rouge schools, and worked as a carpenter prior to entering the service. Inducted May 9, 1944, at New Orleans, he received his training at the Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif., and the Amphibious Training Base, Coronado, Calif. Assigned to the USS Lycaming, he embarked for the Pacific Theater on Jan. 22, 1945, and served at Manila, Saipan, Guam, Eniwetok, Guadalcanal, Okinawa, Ulithi, Leyte, Pearl Harbor, New Guinea, New Caledonia, Subic Bay and Nagasaki. He participated in the Campaign at Okinawa, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Badge with one Battle Star, the Philippine Liberation Medal with one Battle Star, and the American Theater of Operations Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on Dec. 11, 1945. He is the son of Anatol B. Bordelon, 306 South 18th Street, Baton Rouge, La.

③ Robert Cohn Betz

EM 1/C, Seabees

Husband of Ann Friedrichs Betz and father of Robert Cohn Betz, Jr. He was born Sept. 12, 1917, the son of the late Howard Betz and Lena Cohn Betz of Baton Rouge, and attended Magnolia and Baton Rouge Junior and Senior High Schools. He entered the USN Construction Battalions (Seabees) at New Orleans on Dec. 9, 1942, and was assigned for training to Camp Peary, Va. He went to Camp Endicott, R. I., for advanced training, and to Camp Parks, Oakland, Calif., and Port Hueneme, Calif., for preparation and embarkation for overseas service. On April 25, 1943, he departed for Pearl Harbor. Electrician's Mate First Class Betz served with the Seabees on Guam in the Mariana Islands. He was in combat against the enemy in the Marianas Campaign and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans Naval Personnel Separation Center on Oct. 13, 1945. He lost his mother and father while in service.

④ Morris Kirby Durham

Ship's Cook 3/C, USN

Husband of Jacqueline Ann Durham of Jena and son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenner F. Durham of Baton Rouge. He was born Aug. 20, 1924, and attended Istrouma School. He was a butcher, carpenter and clerk prior to entering the United States Navy Jan. 25, 1943, at Baton Rouge. After boot training at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., he was assigned to duty with the USS Tennessee April 20, 1943. On May 7 he embarked for the Aleutian Islands. He served at Tarawa, the Marshalls, Kavieng, the Marianas, Saipan, Guam, Tinian, Palau, the Philippines, in the sea battle of Surigao Strait, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, in operations in the East China Sea, and in the occupation of Japan. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with seven Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Star, the American Defense Service Ribbon and World War II Victory Ribbon, and was discharged honorably on Dec. 13, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Morris Eugene Jones

② Cecil Clayton Painting

③ Glynn Allen Painting

④ John William Painting

⑤ Walter W. Hampton, Jr.

⑥ Kevlin E. Coates

⑦ James H. Hampton

⑧ Sidney Bruce Durbin

⑨ Charles Elie Hebert

⑩ Carl Osborn Hebert

⑪ Manuel Russell, Jr.

⑫ Thomas L. Russell

⑬ Harold Newson Gayle

⑭ William Henry Bahm

⑮ Roland Henly Bahm, Jr.

⑯ Edith Evelyn Bahm Sumrall

⑰ James Eli Smith

⑱ Arthur L. Smith

⑲ Victor G. Haik

⑳ Allen Franklin Smith



① MORRIS EUGENE JONES, S 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. Eugene Victor and Ada Alice Jones. He attended the Hammond High School and was engaged in farming prior to entering the armed forces. Morris is the husband of Rubye Painting and father of one child. He entered the U. S. Navy in November, 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)

② CECIL CLAYTON PAINTING, Seaman 2/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Walker Painting, Loranger. He was born Sept. 20, 1926, and attended Independence and Loranger High Schools, being an electric welder prior to induction into the United States Navy Nov. 3, 1944, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, and Training and Distribution Center, Camp Elliott, he served aboard the USS Houston CL 81 and with Radio Station 8 ND, New Orleans. On Feb. 8, 1945, he embarked for sea duty in the South Pacific and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon and Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Nov. 30, 1945, at New Orleans.

③ GLYNN ALLEN PAINTING, Ship's Cook 2/C, USN

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Walker Painting of Loranger. Born March 24, 1920, he attended Holden, Independence and Loranger High Schools to the time of his induction into the United States Navy Dec. 9, 1939, at New Orleans. He served with Platoon 96, VSNTS, Norfolk, Va., and with USS Henley 391 and USS Liscom Bay, which was assigned to duty in eleven major campaigns in the Pacific including the Philippines, Pearl Harbor, the Gilberts, the Marshalls and the China Sea. He lost his life in battle when the USS Liscom Bay was sunk in the Gilbert Islands Nov. 24, 1943. He had the American Defense Service Ribbon with Star for Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941, the American, European and Asiatic-Pacific Ribbons (eleven stars), Philippine Liberation Ribbon and Purple Heart.

④ JOHN WILLIAM PAINTING
PFC, Armored Force, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Walker Painting, Route 1, Loranger. He was born June 9, 1918, and attended Holden, Loranger and Independence High Schools. He was engaged in farming and dairying prior to his induction into the Army of the United States Feb. 5, 1942, at Hammond. He trained with Company F, 48th Armored Infantry, at Camp Polk. Going to the West Coast, he was wounded accidentally by a machine gun while in training prior to overseas assignment. He was granted his honorable (disability) discharge at Lawson General Hospital in Atlanta, Ga., on Nov. 10, 1943, and was at the Veterans' Administration Facility in Biloxi, Miss., returning to his home Dec. 21, 1943. This gallant soldier was disabled for life while in combat training. He has the Good Conduct Medal.

⑤ WALTER W. HAMPTON, JR.,
Infantry, Artillery, AUS

Husband of Evon Thompson Hampton, Route 1, Hammond, and father of Walter Eugene Hampton. He was born Dec. 13, 1926, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter William Hampton of Hammond, and attended schools in Catchings and Rolling Fork, Miss., Hammond and Ponchatoula High Schools. Entering the Army of the United States on Feb. 23, 1945, at New Orleans, he served at Camp Chaffee, Ark., Camp Maxey, Texas, Camp Rucker, Ala., and Camp Adair, Ore., assigned to duty with the Field Artillery. Going to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations on Aug. 23, 1945, he was assigned to duty as a mess cook at Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii. A complete record of his service in the Pacific area was not known pending his return to the States and release from active duty.

⑥ KEVLIN E. COATES, S 1/C, RM, USNR

Husband of Jessie Lee H. Coates, Hammond, and father of Robert E., Cecil Leslie, Marion Kay and Ronald K. Coates and son of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Coates of Ponchatoula. A furniture sales clerk, he was with Delta Shipbuilding Company, New Orleans, prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve May 22, 1944. After ten weeks at Camp Wallace, Texas, he went to the Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va., boarding the USS Secern AO 61, a large oiler, to serve at Manus, Guam, Saipan, Tinian, Leyte, Lingayen Gulf and Okinawa as radio operator. He fought in the Invasions of Leyte and Luzon and with the support in the Okinawa operations, and is entitled to wear the American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon (two stars), and Philippine Liberation Ribbon (one star). He was discharged Nov. 21, 1945.

⑦ JAMES H. HAMPTON, Infantry, Army of U. S.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter William Hampton of Hammond, Route 1. He was born Jan. 17, 1925, and attended Catchings and Rolling Fork, Miss., Hammond and Ponchatoula High Schools. He was inducted Oct. 16, 1943, into the Army of the United States at New Orleans. He served at Camp Beauregard, Camp Callan, Calif., Camp Haan, Calif., Fort Bliss, Texas, Camp Carson, Colo., Camp Gruber, Okla., and the Overseas Replacement Depot at Fort George G. Meade, Md. On Jan. 28, 1945, he embarked for Camp Phillip Morris, France, and fought with the Infantry in France and Germany. Seriously wounded in action against the enemy in Germany on April 8, 1945, he has the Purple Heart and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with Campaign Stars for the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe and was not yet discharged due to his wounds received in battle.

⑧ SIDNEY BRUCE DURBIN, PFC, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Barney Durbin, 607 South Cherry street. He was born April 29, 1921, and attended Hammond High School. He was with Southern Bell Telephone Company prior to his induction into the United States Marine Corps on Aug. 7, 1942, at New Orleans. He served at the U. S. Marine Corps Base at San Diego, Camp LeJeune, N. C., and Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif. He embarked Oct. 6, 1942, for Pearl Harbor, T. H., where he served at the Marine Barracks, Pearl Harbor Navy Yard, for garrison duty. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Joseph H. Pendleton Oct. 13, 1945.

⑨ CHARLES ELIE HEBERT, 2/SC, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Shirley Bonicard Hebert of Ponchatoula, La., he was born July 22, 1927. Hebert attended school in Ponchatoula, La. Entering the service Dec. 11, 1942, at New Orleans, La., he was assigned to the Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif. He departed March 26, 1943, for New Zealand, and participated in the bitter fighting of New Zealand, Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Australia, New Caledonia, Fiji Islands and Bougainville. This gallant boy died at the U. S. Naval Hospital at Corona, Calif., March 14, 1944.

⑩ CARL OSBORN HEBERT, Corporal, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mrs. Shirley Bonicard Hebert of Ponchatoula, La., and husband of Inez Todd Hebert of Lacombe, La., he was born May 11,

1922, and attended school at Ponchatoula, La. Hebert entered the service Dec. 11, 1941, and received training at San Diego, Calif., and Camp Elliott, Calif. Departing for New Zealand Jan. 10, 1942, Corporal Hebert participated in the fighting at Guadalcanal, Munda, Bougainville, Marshall Islands and Guam. He was awarded a letter of Commendation, unit citation with six battle stars. After more than three years of meritorious service to his country he was discharged Oct. 10, 1945.

⑪ MANUEL RUSSELL, JR., CM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Russell of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Mrs. Velma D. Russell, was born Feb. 19, 1917. He attended schools in Baton Rouge and later was employed in construction work. He was inducted Sept. 28, 1943, at Baton Rouge, La., and assigned to the U. S. Navy and received his boot training at U. S. Naval Construction Training Center, Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va. In February, 1944, he embarked for North Africa and served in North Africa and Italy. CM 1/C Russell, Jr., was fatally wounded as a result of enemy action. His wife was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart at Baton Rouge on June 15, 1944.

⑫ THOMAS L. RUSSELL, S 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Russell of Baton Rouge, La., was born Sept. 9, 1926. He attended the Catholic High School before entering the Navy on Aug. 1, 1943. After receiving his boot training he embarked for overseas on Oct. 1, 1944, and saw action in the liberation of the Philippines. S 1/C Russell served his country faithfully and unselfishly for more than two and one-half years and was given his discharge at New Orleans, La., on March 13, 1946.

⑬ HAROLD NEWSON GAYLE, Private, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sidney Gayle and husband of Mrs. Eunice Mae Vaughn Gayle of Baton Rouge, La., was born Sept. 10, 1925. He attended schools in Baton Rouge, La., and on Dec. 4, 1943, was inducted at Baton Rouge, La., and assigned to the paratroopers. Upon completion of his training in the States, he embarked in July, 1944, for Belgium. Private Gayle saw action in the Campaigns for Ardennes, Battle of the Bulge and Invasion of Holland. This brave soldier was fatally wounded Jan. 1, 1945, in Belgium and posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. He was also awarded the Belgium Citation, Holland Citation and the Presidential Citation.

⑭ WILLIAM HENRY BAHM, Signalman 3/C, USN

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Henly Bahm, Route 1, Bogalusa. He was born July 12, 1926, and attended Bogalusa High and Sullivan Memorial Schools. Entering the United States Navy July 9, 1943, he went to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, and the NRS, San Pedro, Calif., embarking with the USS Lackawanna for duty with the deck crew and becoming a signalman in navigation and communications. He made three voyages with the U. S. Fleet in replenishing and supporting, and served in the Gilberts, Marshalls, Ellice Islands, New Hebrides, Hawaii, Palau Islands, Carolines, Philippines and Japan, and fought in the Gilberts and Marshalls, Majuro, the Palau, Okinawa and Saipan Campaigns, Third Fleet support in bombardment of Japan, and Philippine Liberation, having the Admiral's Citation for outstanding performance of duty.

⑮ ROLAND HENLY BAHM, JR., United States Navy.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Henly Bahm, 402 Adams street, Bogalusa. He was born July 19, 1928, and attended Superio, North Side and Bogalusa High Schools, entering the United States Naval Reserve Sept. 17, 1945, at New Orleans. He was assigned for recruit training to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, and went to the U. S. Naval Receiving Station, San Pedro, for sea duty. He served with the USS George DE 697 as fireman second class, and in March, 1946, was made fireman first class. He embarked for Pearl Harbor Feb. 10, 1946, and served in Hawaii, embarking May 2, 1946, for China.

⑯ EDITH EVELYN BAHM SUMRALL, Lieutenant, Army Nurse Corps

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roland Henly Bahm, 402 Adams street, Bogalusa. She has a daughter, Evelyn Lucille Sumrall. Lieutenant Sumrall was born Sept. 25, 1924, and attended Superio Avenue, Central and Bogalusa High Schools and entered the Army as a cadet nurse on Aug. 17, 1943, at New Orleans. She was assigned to duty at the Hotel Dieu School of Nursing in New Orleans, where she was graduated May 23, 1946, becoming a member of the Army Nurse Corps.

⑰ JAMES ELI SMITH, SC 3/C, Navy

Husband of Mrs. Betty Smith, Route 2, Box 60A, Bogalusa, La. He was born March 11, 1927, and attended school in Bogalusa. Entering the service on May 20, 1943, he was assigned to the USS Neches at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif. On Sept. 2, 1943, he sailed for the South Pacific, and in the course of his service there was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with six stars and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Star. In addition, he wore the American Theater Ribbon and the Victory Ribbon. He was honorably discharged on April 3, 1946.

⑱ ARTHUR L. SMITH, Seaman 2/C, Navy

Son of Mrs. James E. Smith, Route 2, Box 60A, Bogalusa, La. He was born Nov. 18, 1924, in Bogalusa, where he attended school and later worked as an auto parts man for an automobile supply company. On July 6, 1943, he entered the Navy and was assigned to the Naval Training Station at San Diego. Later he served on the USS Pensacola. On Sept. 28, 1943, he sailed for Hawaii, and during the next two years served in the campaigns of Tarawa, the Marshall Islands, the Philippines, Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the occupation of Japan. His decorations include the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific and Philippine Campaign Ribbons, with six stars. He was honorably discharged on Dec. 14, 1945.

⑲ VICTOR G. HAIK, Sgt., Armor, AUS

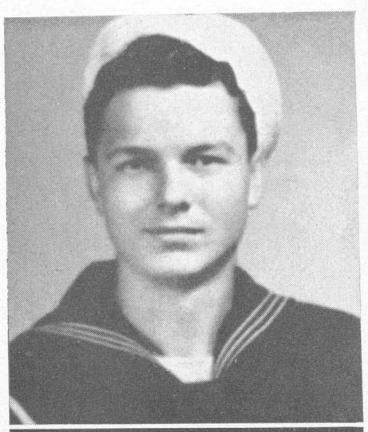
Killed in action in the German counteroffensive in Belgium on Dec. 23, 1944. He was the husband of Josephine Haik, 946 Columbia street, Bogalusa, and father of Victor G. Haik, Jr. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Gabe Haik, Bogalusa, he was born June 27, 1914, and was a machine adjustor for Gaylord Container Corporation. Entering the Army Feb. 6, 1942, he served at Camp Polk, Camp Coxcomb, Calif., Fort Benning, Ga., and Camp Myles Standish, Mass., as gunnery instructor and tank commander, going to the European Theater June 6, 1944, to serve as a tank commander in France, Holland, Germany and Belgium (platoon commander). He fought at Chartres, Chateau-Thierry, Rheims, Verdun, Melun, the Siegfried Line, St. Vith, Metz and Liege and had the European Ribbon with two Campaign Stars, Expert Machine Gun, Pistol and BAR Marksmanship Badges, Good Conduct and Victory Medals, and the Purple Heart.

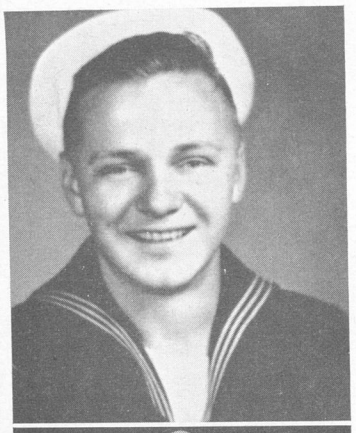
⑳ ALLEN FRANKLIN SMITH, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Smith, he was born Sept. 17, 1909. He attended the Lutcher High School and entered the armed forces Jan. 5, 1944. Allen is the husband of Solauge Smith and father of Ann, Elise, Joycelyn, Phyllis and Allen Smith, Jr.

(N. M. I. A.)

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA


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① George S. O'Neal

MM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Doris Y. O'Neal of Baton Rouge and son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. O'Neal. He was born Dec. 13, 1922, and is a graduate of Catholic High School. He was a machinist prior to entering the USN Reserve Dec. 8, 1942, at New Orleans. He went to the U. S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif., and was assigned to duty at Treasure Island, Calif., and Milwaukee, Wis. On Aug. 1, 1943, he embarked for Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii. He served aboard the USS Honolulu and the USS New Orleans. He was in the Wake Island raid of Oct. 5-6, 1943; the Gilbert Islands operation of Nov. 13-Dec. 2, 1943; the Marshall Islands operation of Dec. 8, 1943-Feb. 22, 1944, and Naval operations on Truk, the Marianas, Palau, Yap, Ulithi and Woleai. He fought in New Guinea, the Western Carolines, in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the Luzon operation, the Mindoro Landings, and the Okinawa operation (April 23-June 20, 1945). Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge from the United States Navy at New Orleans on Nov. 23, 1945.

② Charles Gregory O'Neal

Water Tender 2/C, USNR

Husband of Marie Arthemise O'Neal and son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. O'Neal of Baton Rouge. He was born July 4, 1924, and attended Catholic High School. He was a mechanic by occupation prior to enlisting in the USN on Dec. 7, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned for training to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., and also served at Pleasanton, Calif., and Goat Island, Calif. On Sept. 15, 1943, he embarked for Pearl Harbor where he served with the Amphibious Force assigned to the USS North Carolina. He served in the Naval Battle of Tarawa, strikes on Palau, Yap, Woleai, Hollandia and New Guinea, Ponape, Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Camranh Bay, French Indo-China, Saigon, Formosa and Iwo Jima. He was in combat against the enemy in the air strikes on Tokyo, Hachifo Jima, Okinawa, Hokkaido, Kyushu and the bombardment of the Hitachi Industrial Works. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge from the United States Navy at New Orleans on Nov. 6, 1945.

③ Guy L. Arbuthnot

Lieutenant Colonel, AUS

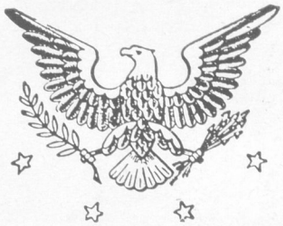
Husband of Eileen Packard Arbuthnot, 1010 First East Street, Vicksburg, Miss., and father of Gloria Jean and Guy Lane Arbuthnot III. He attended school at Manifest and LSU. Entering the Infantry Sept. 15, 1941, at Camp Beauregard, he served as executive officer, reception center. A student at Command and General Staff School, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., he went from there to Desert Training Center (California and Arizona) as a staff officer (G-4). On Nov. 26, 1943, he embarked for England, where he served in London and Cheltenham. He also served in Carentan and Paris, France, and Frankfort, Germany, as a staff officer (G-4) in Theater Headquarters. He was in combat in Normandy and Northern France and has the Bronze Star Medal and the Order of the British Empire conferred by the British Government. Lieutenant Colonel Arbuthnot was honorably released from active service on Feb. 16, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

④ Viers Elmo Arbuthnot

Tec/4, Ordnance, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Lane Arbuthnot, Route 4, Baton Rouge. He attended Manifest High School prior to the time of his entering the Army of the United States Jan. 19, 1944, at Shreveport. Assigned to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., he attended bomb disposal school there prior to embarking for England Sept. 15, 1944. He served in France, Belgium and Germany as a bomb disposal technician and also as clerk, supply and demolition non-commissioned officer. He was in combat in the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in performance of duty in action, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the World War II Victory Ribbon, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with Bronze Campaign Stars for the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He was honorably discharged at Fort George G. Meade, Md., on Feb. 21, 1946.

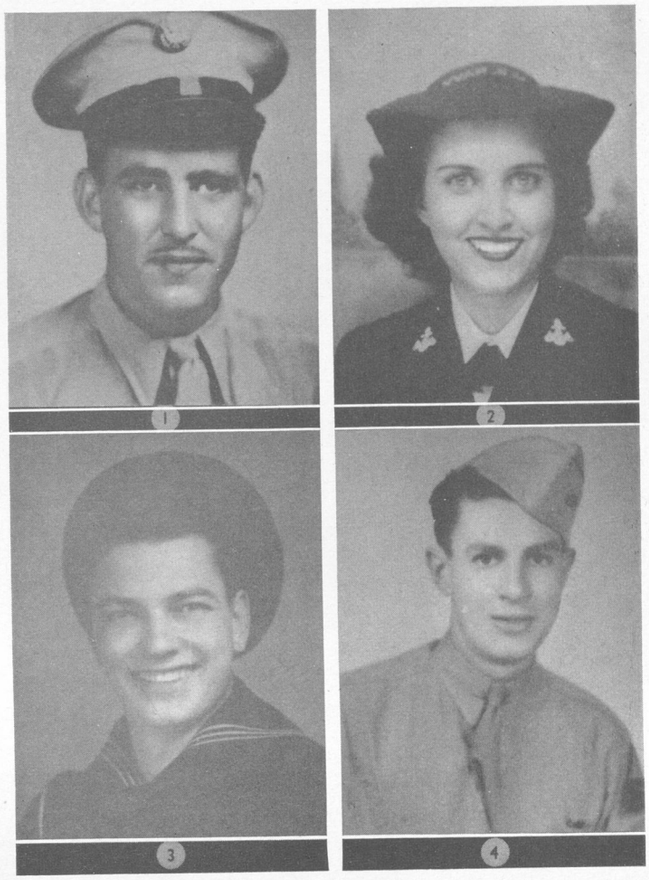
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Harry Robert Rivault

Technical Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Evelyn Tircuit Rivault and father of Harry Robert, Jr., Box 61, Port Allen, La. He was born March 2, 1922, and attended Brusly High School and Southwestern Louisiana Institute. He was employed as a draftsman prior to entering the service. Inducted June 21, 1944, at Camp Beauregard, he received his training at Camp Blanding, Fla., and at Fort Benning, Ga. On April 19, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater where he served as a rifleman in the Philippines, participating in the Negros Island and Western Visayans Campaigns. Sergeant Rivault has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, the Distinguished Unit Badge and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged May 17, 1946, at Fort Bliss, Texas. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cinclare Edward Rivault, Addis, Louisiana.



② Gloria Mary Rivault

Yeoman Second Class, U. S. Navy

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cinclare Edward Rivault, Addis, La. She was born Aug. 11, 1924, and attended Brusly High School, and Baton Rouge Business College. Prior to entering the service, she was employed as a secretary. Inducted Aug. 11, 1944, at New Orleans, she received her training at the U. S. Naval Training School, Bronx, N. Y., and at Yeoman School, Stillwater, Okla. She was then assigned to the U. S. Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla., as secretary to division officer, Emergency Repair and Overhaul Control Division. She has the American Theater of Operations Medal and the Victory Medal. She was honorably discharged May 9, 1946, at Charleston, S. C.

③ Roy Joseph Andre

Coxswain, Navy

Husband of Emily Altazan Andre, Box 40, Port Allen, La. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Andre, Sr., Erwinville, La., and attended the Devall School. He entered the Navy at New Orleans, La., and received training at Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., Small Craft Training Center, Terminal Island, San Pedro, Calif., Receiving Station, Portland, Ore. He sailed from the United States Jan. 2, 1944, and served in the Atlantic for ten months and in the Pacific for ten months. His assignments took him into the battles of Borneo, Negros and Cebu Islands. He is entitled to the Asiatic-Pacific, Philippine Liberation and American Defense Ribbons. He was honorably discharged from the Navy Nov. 2, 1945, at New Orleans, La.

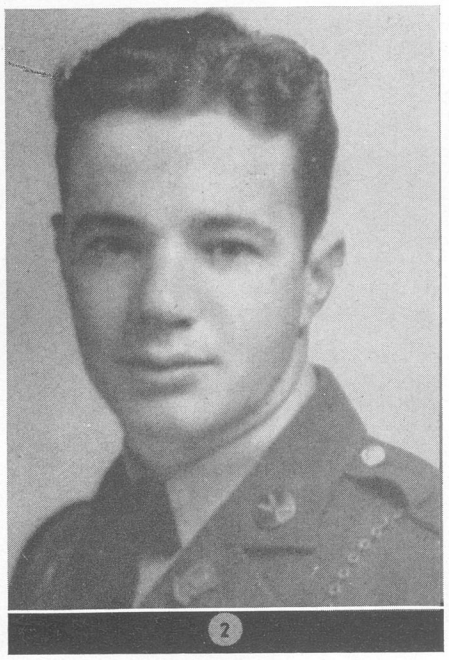
④ Anthony Romano

Tec/5, Army of U. S.

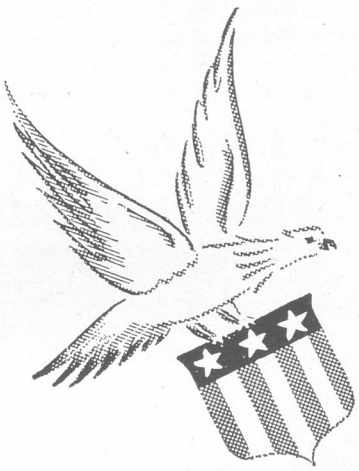
Husband of Mrs. Annette Curcio Romano, 111 South Tenth Street, Baton Rouge. He was born Nov. 19, 1920, and is the son of Mrs. Antonio Romano, 405 South Knox Street. He attended Catholic High School and was a clerk for J. Romano Food Stores. Entering the Army Sept. 10, 1942, at New Orleans, he served at Fort Knox, Ky., Armored Force School and Fort Jackson, S. C., as assistant in the supply room. He embarked Sept. 13, 1944, for England and served in France, Belgium and Germany, assigned to duty as a mess cook. He was in combat in the Ardennes, including the Battle of the Bulge and Central Germany. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the European Theater with Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Jan. 22, 1946, at Camp Shelby.



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① Gerald Daniel Thibodeaux

Private, Infantry

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Raymond Thibodeaux, Box 125, Brusly, La. He was born Jan. 4, 1924, and attended Brusly High School. Prior to entry into the service he worked as a caulker for Kansas City Bridge and Construction Company. He entered service Aug. 3, 1943, and received basic training at Camp Seibert, Ala. Later attending school at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland, he went to Camp Reynolds, Pa., for overseas staging. Departing for England May 16, 1944, he saw duty in France, Belgium and Germany. He participated in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France and Central Europe. His awards include the Presidential Unit Citation and European Theater Ribbon with three Battle Stars. He was honorably separated from the service Nov. 22, 1945, at Camp Chaffee, Ark.

② Larry Joseph Thibodeaux

Staff Sergeant, Field Artillery

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Raymond Thibodeaux, Brusly, La. He was born Sept. 7, 1919, and attended the Brusly High School. He was inducted into the service at Camp Livingston, La., on April 11, 1941, and was later assigned to Camp Shelby, Miss., Camp Sutton, N. C., Fort Bragg, N. C., Camp Blanding, Fla., Camp Gordon, Ga., and Fort Dix, N. J. On Aug. 18, 1943, he sailed from New York for Oran, Africa, serving also in Italy, France, Germany, Austria and Belgium as a forward observer in the field artillery. He saw action in the campaigns of Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe, and was awarded the Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the EAMETO Medal, and the Bronze Indian Arrowhead. He received his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Sept. 26, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Sam J. Curcio, Jr.

Private, Army

Husband of Rebecca Pierce and father of Sam J. III and James Wesley of Amite, La. He was born April 13, 1916, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam J. Curcio, Brusly, La., and attended Brusly High School and Baton Rouge Business College. Prior to his entrance into the service he worked as parish administrative officer for the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in Tangipahoa parish. He entered service May 10, 1945, at New Orleans, La., and was assigned to Ford Ord, Calif., where he served as clerk-typist in Re-enlistment Section. He later went to Fort Riley, Kan., where he attended Radio Operator's School. His Army duties came to an end Jan. 13, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss., where he received an honorable discharge on that date.



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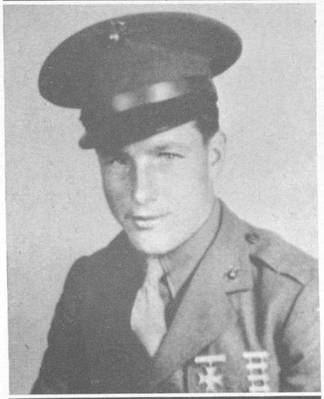


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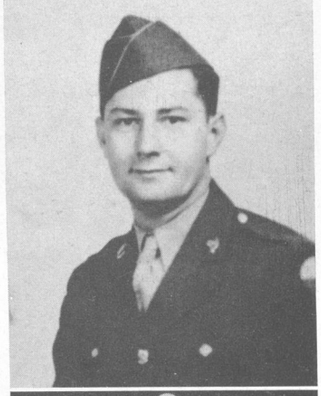
② Dalton Ray Guidry

Sergeant, Army

Husband of Hilda Mary and father of Elizabeth and Judy Ann, Addis, La. He was born Aug. 7, 1911, son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Jackson Guidry, Addis, La., and is a graduate of Brusly High School. Prior to his service in the Army he worked as an electrician. He entered service Sept. 28, 1942, and received training at Camp Beauregard, La., Camp Hulen, Texas, San Diego Marine Base and Camp Cook, Calif. His duties were in capacity of communications chief. He left for New Guinea March 22, 1944, and later saw duty in Luzon, Philippine Islands, and Yokohama, Japan. He received battle stars for three campaigns together with a Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star. He was honorably separated from the service Oct. 19, 1945, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.



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③ Lytle Joseph Chustz

Corporal, U. S. Marine Corps

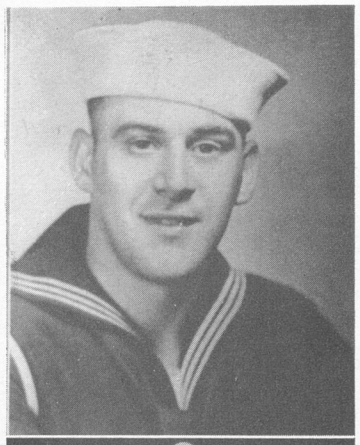
Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Ferdinand Chustz, Erwinville, La. He was born Dec. 11, 1924, and attended Port Allen High School. Inducted into the service Nov. 1, 1943, at Lafayette, he received his boot training at the Marine Corps Base, San Diego, Calif., and his Field Artillery training at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif. On March 30, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he served with the Field Artillery at Leyte, Guam, Hawaiian Islands and Mariana Islands. Corporal Chustz participated in the Philippine Liberation from Oct. 21, 1944, to Dec. 12, 1944. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with one Battle Star, the Philippine Liberation Medal with two Battle Stars, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on March 18, 1946.

④ Frank J. Loupe

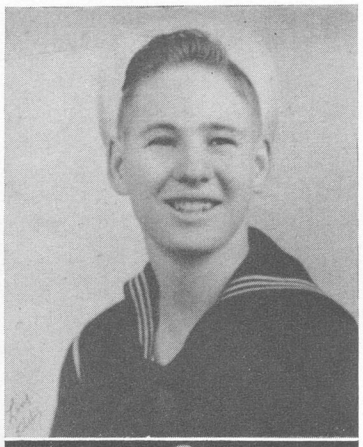
Master Sergeant, Infantry

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Loupe, Brusly, La. He was born Nov. 10, 1910, and is a graduate of Brusly High School and completed courses in bookkeeping and stenography at Baton Rouge Business College. He entered service June 7, 1941, at Camp Livingston, La., and after training was assigned to Headquarters IV Corps and was stationed at Jacksonville, Fla., Camp Beauregard, La., Fort Lewis, Wash., and Camp Young, Calif. He departed for overseas March 7, 1944, and saw duty in Italy, south of Rome through the Po Valley Campaign. He is rated with battle stars for Rome-Arno, North Apennines and Po Valley Campaigns. The Bronze Star is among his awards for faithful service which terminated Oct. 19, 1945, with an honorable discharge from Camp Shelby, Miss.

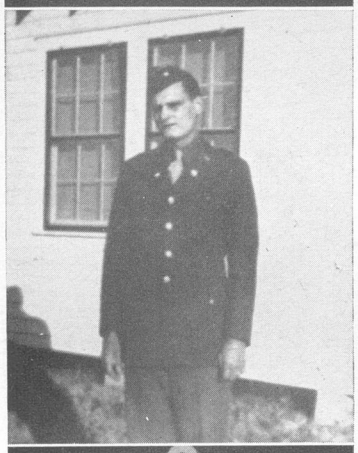
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Leonard John Brupbacher

U. S. Navy

He was born March 27, 1922, and attended Eunice High School, Opelousas High School and Port Barre High School. Inducted March 26, 1942, at New Orleans, he received his training at the U. S. Naval Base, San Diego, Calif., Naval Radar School, Virginia Beach, Va., Naval Radio School, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and then served aboard the USS Warren, the USS Auriga and the USS Augusta. On August 2, 1943, he embarked for overseas, and served in Italy, Marshall Islands, Mariana Islands, Africa, replenishing ammunition and supplies to marine landing forces, and assisting in D-Day operations. He participated in the invasions of the Marshall Islands, Mariana Islands and Italy, and the Battle of Santa Cruz. He has the Presidential Citation.

② Edward William Gassie

PhM 2/C, U. S. Navy Reserve

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Marion M. Gassie of Addis. He was born Nov. 29, 1925, and attended Levert-Addis School and Brusly High School. He was a chemist assistant with Aluminum Ore Company, Baton Rouge, prior to entering the United States Navy Feb. 11, 1944, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Center at Farragut, Idaho, he was assigned to duty at the U. S. Naval Hospital in Seattle, Wash., the U. S. Naval Hospital at Medford, Ore., and the Naval Training Center, Shoemaker, Calif. Pharmacist Mate Gassie served with the USS Rigel on sea duty. He was honorably discharged at the Personnel Separation Center, Shoemaker, on June 28, 1946.

③ Emory Joseph Andre

Tec/5, Cavalry, AUS

Husband of Dorothy Brown Andre of Erwinville and father of Loretta Ann Andre. He was born April 24, 1918, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Andre of Erwinville. He attended Erwinville School and was an electric welder by occupation prior to entering the Army November 16, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Fort Riley, Kan., Camp Maxey, Texas, and Camp Coxcomb, Calif., with the 15th Cavalry, going to the European Theater March 1, 1944. Landing in Scotland, he served in Southampton, in France, Holland, Belgium and Germany with the Third and Ninth U. S. Armies. He was in combat in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the Meritorious Service Citation, American and European Theater of Operations Ribbons, five Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged Nov. 20, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

④ Archilles Emmett Durham, Sr.

Seaman 1/C, Navy

Husband of Josie and father of Archilles Emmett, Jr., and Janet Marie, Erwinville, La. He was born Aug. 22, 1915, son of Mr. and Mrs. Archilles Louis Durham, Oscar, La., and attended Poydras High School. Prior to his service in the Navy he worked as a salesman with B. Olinde & Sons Co., New Roads, La. He entered service Jan. 31, 1944, and later attended boot camp at San Diego, Calif. He shipped aboard a destroyer April 14, 1944, and saw duty in most every point in the Pacific, in the theater of operations at that date. He participated in the Battles of Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Palau, Leyte, Surigao Strait, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He has five battle stars on his Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon, and one star on his Philippine Liberation Medal. He received his honorable discharge from the service Dec. 12, 1945, at Nashville, Tenn.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Roland Augustine Pitre

② Ferdinand Marchall Pitre, Jr.

③ Walter J. Babin

④ Wilfred J. Babin

⑤ Joseph D. Cazes

⑥ John Ned Cazes

⑦ Joseph Clay Cazes, Jr.

⑧ Joseph Marion Cazes

⑨ Daniel Lloyd Foret

⑩ John D. Foret

⑪ LeRoy E. Foret

⑫ Archie Cyril Triche

⑬ Thomas Douglas Rougon

⑭ Sidney H. Chauvin, Jr.

⑮ William Henry Smith, Jr.

⑯ John Warren Rougon

⑰ Malcolm J. Chustz

⑱ Lloyd J. Chustz

⑲ Leon J. Chustz

⑳ Lynn J. Chustz



① ROLAND AUGUSTINE PITRE, PFC, USMC

Father of Rodney James Pitre. He was born Feb. 19, 1924, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Marchall Pitre of Addis. He attended Addis Grammar School and Brusly High School and was an oil company employee prior to his induction into the Marine Corps on Dec. 10, 1942. He served at Camp Miramar, Calif., Camp North Island, Calif., and Camp Elliott, Calif., as a rifleman and machine gunner with the Marine Corps. On March 9, 1943, he embarked for Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, and New Zealand, going to Munda Beachhead, New Georgia, as a rifleman in combat, and Bougainville Beachhead. He served on Efate in the New Hebrides Islands, and Emirau in the Florida Islands, before returning to Pearl Harbor and fought in the Guadalcanal Defense, Battle for Munda, Bougainville Beach, and the defense of St. Matthias Island, Emirau, having the Presidential Unit Citation and Asiatic, Pacific Ribbon with Four Bronze Campaign Stars.

② FERDINAND MARCHALL PITRE, JR., PFC, Army

Father of James Melvin, John Kernie and Joan Marilyn Pitre. He was born Nov. 21, 1918, the son of Ferdinand Marchall and Julia Irene Ruiz Pitre, and attended Levert Addis School. Entering the Army in the Infantry Nov. 10, 1944, he trained at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, and embarked April 7, 1945, for Central Europe where he fought in Germany as a rifleman with the 36th Infantry Division, Seventh U. S. Army, and at Marseilles where he served in ration breakdown with the 622nd Quartermaster Railhead Company. He fought in the Campaign of Central Europe as rifleman and machine gunner. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged Jan. 24, 1946, at Camp Atterbury, Ind.

③ WALTER J. BABIN, Corporal, MD, AUS

He was born Aug. 31, 1914, and attended Brusly High School and Baton Rouge Business College. He entered the Army in the Medical Department April 10, 1941, and served at Camp Shelby, Miss., Camp Blanding, Fla., Camp Sutton, N. C., and Camp Gordon, Ga. He did administrative and clerical work and also first aid. On Aug. 21, 1943, he embarked for Oran. He served in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany, assigned to a medical detachment with the Field Artillery as a medical corporal. He entered combat in Italy and served in the Campaigns of Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, the North Apennines, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal. He was discharged Nov. 2, 1945.

④ WILFRED J. BABIN, Private, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Babin. He was born May 1, 1921, and attended Brusly High School. Entering the Army Nov. 24, 1942, at Camp Livingston, he trained and served at Fort Knox, Ky., at Camp Campbell, Ky., and at Camp Kilmer, N. J., he embarked for North Africa June 16, 1943, and served in North Africa and Italy with an Armored Infantry Regiment in an Armored Division. He was in combat in the Campaign of Naples-Foggia at the time he was killed in action against the enemy on Jan. 6, 1944. The Purple Heart was awarded posthumously to his parents at Brusly in February of 1944.

⑤ JOSEPH D. CAZES, Sergeant, USMCR

He was born April 8, 1924, and attended Levert-Addis and Brusly High Schools. Entering the Marine Corps Reserve on Dec. 7, 1942, he went to the Marine Base Depot, San Diego, Calif., and Navy Pier Training Center in Chicago. He was assigned also to Cherry Point, N. C., and El Centro, Calif. On March 17, 1944, he went to the Southwest Pacific area where he served in Hawaii, Midway Island, Emirau in the St. Matthias Group, Biak and Leyte and Mindanao in the Philippines. He was assigned to duty as an aircraft mechanic. He was in combat in the Bismarck Archipelago Operations, the Southern Philippines Campaigns and the Consolidation of the Northern Solomon Islands, and has the Presidential Unit Citation Award. Sergeant Cazes was discharged Oct. 17, 1945.

⑥ JOHN NED CAZES, U. S. Marine Corps

He was born Oct. 8, 1925, and attended Levert-Addis School and Brusly High School at Brusly. Entering the Marine Corps Reserve on Jan. 12, 1944, he went to the Marine Corps Base, San Diego, and to Camp Pendleton, Calif. In August, 1944, he embarked for the Southwest Pacific area where he served and fought as a machine gunner in the famous Fifth Marine Division. He was stationed in the Hawaiian Islands, Iwo Jima, Guam, Nagasaki, Sasebo and Fukuoka, Japan. This gallant Marine fought in the great Marine operation of the Invasion of Iwo Jima. Wounded in action, he has the Purple Heart. He was continuing to serve with the Marine Corps in Japan.

⑦ JOSEPH CLAY CAZES, JR., Lieutenant (jg), USN

He was born June 30, 1920, and attended Levert-Addis School and Brusly High School, LSU and Delgado Trades School, New Orleans. He was a machinist prior to entering the Naval Reserve Sept. 2, 1942. Lieutenant Cazes served at the Pre-Flight School, Athens, Ga., Primary Flight School, Olathe, Kan., and the Naval Aviation Technical Training Center, Corpus Christi, Texas, where he received his commission. He served as an instructor at the NAS in New Orleans, the NAS at Norman, Okla., and was last assigned to duty with the Ferrying Command, U. S. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla. He was relieved from active duty and placed on inactive status in the Naval Reserve on Jan. 25, 1946.

⑧ JOSEPH MARION CAZES, United States Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Clay Cazes. He was born May 12, 1927, and attended Levert-Addis School and Brusly H'gh School at Brusly, entering the Army on July 25, 1945. He was assigned to AAF Technical Training Schools at Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, at Lowry Field, Denver, Colo., and at Randolph Field, Texas. The youthful soldier was continuing his technical training in the United States preparatory to service with the AAF in technical fields.

⑨ DANIEL LLOYD FORET, Seaman 1/C, USNR

He was born Dec. 11, 1924, and attended Levert-Addis and Brusly High Schools. On Nov. 23, 1942, he entered the Naval Reserve. After training at the U. S. Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Ill., he went aboard the heavy cruiser USS Baltimore, embarking July 24, 1943, for the British West Indies where he served for 29 months from the Gilberts across to New Guinea, then to the Philippines, Formosa, Tokyo, the Kyushu Chain, the China Coast and the Central Pacific. He was in combat in the Gilberts-Marshalls Campaign, New Guinea (Hollandia), the Carolines, the Marianas Group. Truk, Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the Philippines and Comroug Bay, the coast of French Indo-China, Hong Kong, Canton and Hainan Island, China, and Tokyo, Japan. He has the American and Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbons with nine Bronze Campaign Stars on the latter and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Star and World War II Victory Medal. Discharged Oct. 3, 1945.

⑩ JOHN D. FORET, Corporal, SC, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest James Foret, he was born Jan. 29, 1920, and attended Addis School and Brusly High School. He was employed as a moulder for Beaumont Iron Works prior to his induction into the Army on Sept. 29, 1941. He served with the Signal Corps at Fort Sam Houston, Camp Roberts, Calif., Camp Haan, Calif., and Station B-36, Malibu, Calif., assigned to duty as radar operator and supply sergeant. On Oct. 22, 1944, he embarked for New Guinea where he served at Hollandia, Zanphore, and Biak off New Guinea, and in the Palau Islands, Dulag, Leyte in the Philippines, Mindoro and Palawan. He was in combat in the Campaign of New Guinea and the Campaigns of the Philippines and has the American Defense Service Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, with two Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star, the Good Conduct and the Victory Medals. Discharged Jan. 7, 1946.

⑪ LEROY E. FORET, Sergeant, Army

He was born Feb. 22, 1917, and attended Addis and Levert Schools. On Sept. 20, 1940, he entered the Army and trained at Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Knox, Ky., Camp Beauregard, Camp Polk, the California Desert Training Center, Camp Pickett, Va., Indiantown Gap, Pa., and Camp Kilmer, N. J., going to the European Theater Sept. 15, 1943. He served in England, France, Belgium and Germany. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, Central Europe and the Ardennes (the German Bulge), and was wounded in action Sept. 27, 1944, at Stolzburg, Germany. Sergeant Foret has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Ribbon, the Purple Heart, and the European Theater Ribbon with five Bronze Campaign Stars. Discharged June 18, 1945.

⑫ ARCHIE CYRIL TRICHE, BM 2/C, USN, Seabees

He was born March 18, 1924, and attended Port Allen High School prior to entering the Naval Construction Battalions Jan. 17, 1943. From Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Ill., he went to Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., for Seabee Training, and to Camp Endicott, R. I., Camp Parks and Port Hueneme, Calif. On Sept. 21, 1943, he embarked for New Guinea and served at Milne Bay, N. G., at Finschafen and Mamician engaged in rigging. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the Good Conduct Ribbon. Discharged Jan. 16, 1946.

⑬ THOMAS DOUGLAS ROUGON, P. O. 1/C, USNCB

He attended Catholic High School, Poydras High and St. Paul's College and Milwaukee School of Engineering, Milwaukee, Wis. On Nov. 10, 1942, he entered the Construction Battalions (Seabees) and went to Camp Endicott, Davisville, R. I., for basic training, then to Camp Parks, Calif., from which he departed Feb. 5, 1942, for the Aleutians. From Sitka he served in Dutch Harbor, Unalaska and Adak, Alaska, then went to Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands, stationed at Pearl Harbor, and to Guam in the Marianas. He served as a fabricator and repairman with Naval bases. Petty Officer Rougon (SFIC) hs a special citation from the commanding officer of USS Boxwood for able and efficient service as a shipfitter and welder, and for cheerful performance of grueling and exacting tasks in repair work while the ship was engaged in its operations of net-laying and maintenance.

⑭ SIDNEY H. CHAUVIN, JR., Coxswain, U. S. Navy

Father of Johnnie Belle and Katherine Faye Chauvin and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney H. Chauvin. He attended Lottie and Livonia schools. He was a construction worker prior to entering the Navy March 17, 1943. From Naval Station, San Diego, Calif., he went to Repair Base at San Diego, keeping records of transit personnel. He served in the same capacity at Camp Elliott, San Diego, and from the Naval Training Station at Shoemaker and Treasure Island he embarked July 14, 1945, for the Southwest Pacific. He first landed on Samar, then on Leyte, San Fernando, and at Manila. As coxswain of a small craft attached to Service Division 73 of the Seventh Fleet on USS Gold Star, he served in the Southwest Pacific throughout his term of overseas duty. Coxswain Chauvin was discharged Dec. 20, 1945.

⑮ WILLIAM HENRY SMITH, JR., Army of the U. S.

Husband of Ruby Smith and father of Genevieve Marie Smith. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Henry Smith. He attended Lottie and Livonia Schools. On Sept. 7, 1943, he entered the Army in the Infantry at Camp Beauregard and served at Camp Gruber, Okla. (basic training), and Camp Phillips, Kan., then embarked from New York in early April, 1944, for the European Theater of Operations, disembarking in England. This gallant soldier took part in the Invasion. On June 25, 1944, he was killed in the bitter fighting for Normandy Beachhead. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for Military Merit and for wounds received in action against the enemy resulting in his death.

⑯ JOHN WARREN ROUGON, M/Sgt., U. S. Army

He was born March 30, 1908, and attended Poydras High, Baton Rouge High and LSU. He was clerk and assistant postmaster prior to induction March 17, 1942. He served at Camp Robinson, Ark., and Midwest Trade Institute, Bloomington, Ill. (Auto Mechanics' School). He went to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., for a course in tank engines. From Camp Stoneman, Calif., he embarked for the Southwest Pacific March 28, 1943, and served in the Fiji Islands as section lead and mechanic. He also served on Bougainville and Luzon, P. I. (shop foreman). He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star for combat. He also has a Meritorious Service Unit Award, the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal and American Theater Ribbon. He was discharged Dec. 19, 1945.

⑰ MALCOLM J. CHUSTZ, Corporal, Infantry, AUS

Son of Daily J. Chustz and Mrs. Cornelis M. LeJeune Chustz. Born March 20, 1925, he attended Brusly High School and was inducted into the Army on Aug. 3, 1943. He served with the Infantry at Camp Fannin, Texas, and at Ford Ord, Calif., going to the Hawaiian Islands on March 11, 1944. Corporal Chustz served in Hawaii, the Eastern Mandates, and the Western Pacific, assigned to duty in the line as a rifleman. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Eastern Mandates and the Western Pacific and has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Purple Heart awarded July 10, 1944, at Farrington General Tripler Hospital on Oahu, T. H., for wounds received in the bitter fighting on Saipan. He has been recommended for the Bronze Star. He was discharged Jan. 13, 1946.

⑱ LLOYD J. CHUSTZ, PFC, Infantry, AUS

Son of Daily J. Chustz and Cornelia M. LeJeune Chustz. He was born Dec. 14, 1923, and attended Brusly High School, working as a steamfitter helper prior to his induction into the Army on Aug. 3, 1943. He served at Camp Fannin, Texas, and at Fort Ord, Calif., embarking March 11, 1944, for the Hawaiian IsIlands from which he served in the Eastern Mandates and the islands of the Western Pacific assigned to duty as a rifleman. He was in combat in the Marianas and was wounded in action in the bitter fighting for Saipan on June 22, 1944. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with one Campaign Star, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Purple Heart awarded for his wounds on Saipan, and was discharged with a certificate of disability on Feb. 15, 1945.

⑲ LEON J. CHUSTZ, Sergeant, Air Forces

Son of Daily J. Chustz and Cornelia M. LeJeune Chustz. He was born May 3, 1920, and attended Brusly High School and Mount Carmel Academy. On Oct. 14, 1941, he entered the AAF at Camp Livingston and served also at Camp Shelby, Miss., Camp Croft, S. C., and Fort Dix, N. J. Sergeant Chustz went overseas Jan. 23, 1942, going to Australia and serving there and in the East Indies, Papua and New Guinea, assigned to duty as information center operator. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the East Indies, Papua and New Guinea, and has the Presidential Unit Citation Badge, the American Defense Service Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Aug. 29, 1945.

⑳ LYNN J. CHUSTZ, PFC, AAA, AUS

Son of Daily J. Chustz and Cornelia M. LeJeune Chustz. He was born July 25, 1926, and attended Brusly High School. Entering the Army in Anti-Aircraft Artillery on Oct. 30, 1944, he served at Camp Chaffee, Ark., Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Ord, Calif., and Fort Lawton, Wash. Embarking for the Pacific area May 4, 1945, he went to the Island of Oahu for training with 40-millimeter anti-aircraft guns and to Okinawa as gunner on 105-millimeter Field Artillery guns. He served on security guard on the Island of Honshu, Japan. Private First Class Chustz was continuing to serve with the Army in Japan.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Herman Joseph Cline

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Cline of Erwinville, La. He was born Oct. 7, 1926, and attended Port Allen High School. He was a student at the time of his induction. Inducted at Camp Chaffee, Ark, on Feb. 16, 1945, he received his Medical Corps training in first aid at Fort Knox, Ky. On Aug. 21, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater of Operations, and he has served at Luzon, Philippine Islands and in Korea as a Medical Aide in the Laboratory. Staff Sergeant Cline is still in the service, and he is located in Korea, serving in the same capacity. It is thought that he will be returning to this country in the near future to be discharged.

② Julius Anthony Cline

Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Juanita F. Cline of Erwinville, La. He was born Nov. 3, 1922, attended Port Allen High School, and did farm work prior to entering the service. Inducted July 10, 1943, at Lafayette, he received his basic training at Camp Barkley, Texas. On Dec. 14, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater, and participated in the Campaigns of Normandy, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. Corporal Cline has the Presidential Citation, the Distinguished Unit Badge, the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, the Belgian Fourragere, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Jan. 2, 1946. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Cline, Erwinville, La.

③ Onis Virgil Fulks

Master Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

Husband of Jane Eleanor Fulks and father of Jacqueline Marie Fulks, Box 67, Addis, La. He was born Oct. 31, 1919, attended School of Alton, Ill., and worked for the Western Cartridge Company of East Alton, Ill., prior to entering the service. He enlisted at East St. Louis, Ill., on Sept. 21, 1940, and received his basic training at Barksdale Field, Shreveport, La. He served at Harding Field, Baton Rouge, La., and at Davis Monthan Field, Tucson, Ariz. On April 14, 1945, he embarked for the Caribbean Theater, and served at Puerto Rico as non-commissioned officer in charge of Processing Center. Upon returning, he was honorably discharged at Ellington Field, Texas, on Oct. 24, 1945. He is the son of Mary Inez Fulks, 2739 Sanford Avenue, Alton, Ill.

④ Sidney A. Blanchard

First Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

Husband of Verna M. Blanchard, Port Allen, La. He was born Oct. 8, 1920, attended Brusly High School and LSU, and was an engineering draftsman with the Louisiana Department of Highways prior to entering the service. Inducted Oct. 16, 1942, at New Orleans, he received his basic training at Camp Beauregard and Keesler Field. At Chanute Field he attended Sheet Metal School, and was then assigned to the 63rd Troop Carrier Squadron at Alliance, Neb. On Oct. 16, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Theater from Camp Stoneman, Calif. He served as airplane mechanic and first sergeant at New Caledonia, New Hebrides Islands, Admiralty Islands, Noomfoer Island and Leyte. Sergeant Blanchard participated in the campaigns in the Northern Solomons, Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, Western Pacific, Southern Philippines and Luzon. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with six Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal, the Distinguished Unit Badge, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas on Dec. 29, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Blanchard, Sr., of Brusly, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

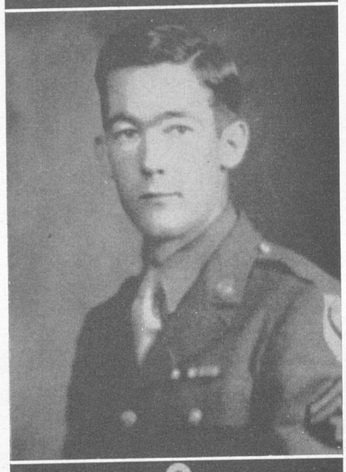


① 1

① Albert Cazes Branham

PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Evelyn C. Branham of Addis, La., he was born April 3, 1915, and attended Brusly High School. After graduating he entered Louisiana State University and Baton Rouge Business College. Entering the armed forces Jan. 14, 1941, Branham served for 27 months as chaplain's assistant at Camp Shelby, Miss. Later he was sent to Fort Benning, Ga., where he assisted the personnel clerk. He departed Nov. 4, 1944, for Europe and participated in the bitter fighting of the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. PFC Branham is the holder of the European Theater of Operations Medal, the Medical Badge and American Defense Service Medal. He was discharged Oct. 18, 1945.



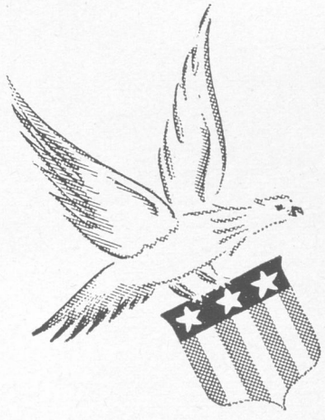
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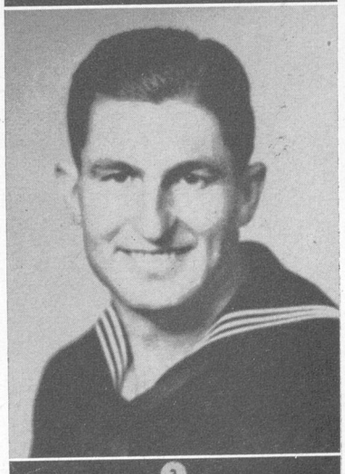
② Donovan Joseph Branham

U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Evelyn C. Branham of Addis, La. He was born Oct. 18, 1918, and received his education at the Levert-Addis Grammar School, graduating from the Brusly High School. Donovan is the husband of Eunice L. Branham and father of D. J. Branham, Jr. He entered the U. S. Army Aug. 27, 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)





③ 3

③ Lonnie B. Glenn

CM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Settie Glenn of Big Sandy, Texas, and husband of Susan Angela Glenn of Addis, La., he was born Dec. 31, 1915. Glenn attended Big Sandy High School and prior to his entering the service he was employed by the Texas and Pacific Railway. Glenn entered the U. S. Navy June 18, 1942, at Dallas, Texas, and was assigned to Camp Allen, Norfolk, Va., later being sent to Camp Parks, Calif. He departed Sept. 6, 1942, for the Pacific and served on Guadalcanal and the Solomon Islands until November, 1943, and on Okinawa until Sept. 22, 1945. Glenn is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with three Battle Stars and the Good Conduct Medal. After more than three years of faithful service to his country he was discharged Jan. 1, 1946. He is the father of David Byron Glenn.



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① Joseph Edward Sanders, Sr.

T/5, Corps of Engineers

Husband of Eula Mae Harrington and father of Joseph Edward Sanders, Jr., Route 1, Baker, La. He was born Oct. 28, 1922, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred James Sanders, 1308 North Boulevard, Baton Rouge, La., and graduated from Central High School. Prior to his service with the Engineers he worked as rodman with H. K. Ferguson. He entered service Feb. 3, 1943, and received his training at Camp Swift, Texas. Departing for England Oct. 7, 1943, he later saw duty in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and Austria. For participation in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe, he received five Battle Stars plus a Distinguished Unit Badge. He was honorably discharged Oct. 26, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

② Riley G. LeBlanc

Corporal, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene G. LeBlanc, 852 North 29th Street, Baton Rouge, La. He was born Jan. 11, 1920, and attended LSU. He entered service Oct. 3, 1941, at Camp Livingston, La., and later attended school for ground observers at Tampa, Fla. He departed for Europe Dec. 5, 1943, and saw duty in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe as ground observer. His participation in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe has earned him six Battle Stars. He wears the American Defense Medal, European Theater Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon and World War II Victory Medal. At Camp Shelby, Miss., he received his honorable discharge Nov. 15, 1945.

③ Joseph Joaquin Yglesias, Sr.

Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Geraldine McCaleb Yglesias and father of Jose Joaquin Yglesias, Jr., 4827 Sherwood Drive, Baton Rouge, La. He was born Dec. 20, 1920, attended Liceo De Costa Rica at San Jose, Costa Rica, LSU and was senior clerk translator at the U. S. Office of Censorship, New Orleans, prior to entering the service. Inducted June 28, 1944, at Camp Beauregard, he received his basic training at Camp Blanding, Fla., and was wire chief in the 51st Signal Operations at Camp Shelby, Miss., and Camp Polk, La. On Dec. 10, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served at Caserta, Pisa and Lake Garda, all in Italy. Corporal Yglesias participated in the Rome-Arno Campaign. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, the Meritorious Unit Award and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on April 24, 1946.

④ Joseph Ellery Seiler

Staff Sergeant, Air Forces

Husband of Mrs. Gloria S. Seiler and son of Mrs. Ethel M. Seiler, 4152 Bienville Street, New Orleans. He attended Warren Easton Boys' High School and was requisition editor for New Orleans Port of Embarkation prior to his induction into the Army Air Forces Dec. 10, 1942, at New Orleans. Staff Sergeant Seiler served at Camp Hood, Texas, and Camp Forrest, Tenn., as radio electrician-technician. He served at Sioux Falls Army Air Base, S. D., and at Yuma Army Air Base, Ariz. After operational training at Lake Charles Army Air Field, he was assigned to the 344th Bombardment Group, 494th Bombardment Squadron, embarking Nov. 21, 1944, for Pontoise, France, Florennes, Belgium, and Munich, Germany, as combat radio operator, radar bombardier in a B-26 Marauder, Ninth Air Force. He was in combat in the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Germany, and has the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Good Conduct Medal, European Theater Ribbon with three Stars, Victory Medal, American Theater Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby Nov. 18, 1945. Staff Sergeant Seiler also instructed enlisted and commissioned crewmen in the use of radio and radar equipment. He flew as a member of a flight lead crew as radar navigator bombardier.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Ralph Vaughan Sibley

T/5, Ordnance Dept.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace N. Sibley, Route 1, Baker, La. He was born Oct. 7, 1922, and is a graduate of Central High School. He entered service Dec. 1, 1942, and received basic training and attended instrument repair school at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. He next received orders for movement to Camp Shenango, Pa., prior to his shipment overseas. He departed for North Africa June 6, 1943, and served with 86th Ordnance H. A. M. Company through the Campaigns of Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Apennines and Po Valley. He earned four Battle Stars for his European Theater Ribbon while in service overseas. He received his honorable discharge Oct. 25, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

② Charles Seldon Latham

Tec/Sgt., Air Forces

Son of Mrs. Irene Latham and the late Dr. C. E. Latham of Route 4, Baton Rouge. He was born Sept. 21, 1924, and attended Central High School, Baton Rouge Business College and LSU. Entering the Army Air Forces March 26, 1943, at New Orleans, he went from Camp Beauregard to Sheppard Field, Texas, for basic training, then attended Radio School at Scott Field and Gunnery School at Yuma Army Air Base. He was assigned to his crew at Drew Field, Fla., and received overseas training at Avon Park, Fla. Embarking July 27, 1944, for England, he made 35 combat missions over enemy-held territory in Europe from England. He was in combat in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes and Central Europe, and has the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Good Conduct Medal and the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with five Bronze Campaign Stars. He was honorably discharged Sept. 26, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss., and had served as a radio instructor at Victorville AAB and Hobbs AAB. Technical Sergeant Charles S. Latham passed away March 5, 1946.

③ George K. Sommers

Tec/5, U. S. Army

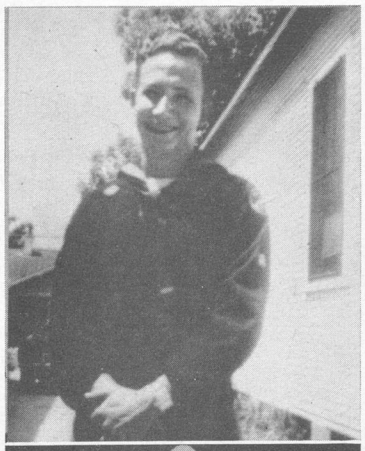
Son of Mrs. Cordelia D. Sommers and the late Gilbert C. Sommers, 113 Burgundy Street, Baton Rouge. He attended Magnolia and Baton Rouge Junior and Senior High Schools prior to enlisting in the Army Amphibious Engineers on July 24, 1942, at Baton Rouge. He received amphibious training at Camp Edwards, Mass., at Camp Carabelle, Fla., and at Fort Ord, Calif., and departed Feb. 18, 1943, for Brisbane, Australia. He served in Australia, New Guinea, the Admiralty Islands and the Philippine Islands as a diesel mechanic and coxswain with the amphibious forces, and handled 225-horsepower diesel engines on the beaches and in large repair bases, frequently under enemy fire. He fought in New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago, the Southern Philippines, and the Central Pacific. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Campaign Stars, the Meritorious Service Unit Award, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged Aug. 20, 1945.

④ Lecil Miller

S/Sgt., AUS

Husband of Nancy Stiles Miller of Baker and father of Milton Oscar and Sylvia Vivian Miller. The son of Mr. and Mrs. John Joseph Henry of Baker, he attended Baker and Zachary High Schools and was with Standard Oil Company prior to his induction into the Army of the United States on May 22, 1944, at Baton Rouge. Staff Sergeant Miller served at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., in Ordnance, Camp Lee, Va., with the Quartermaster Corps, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., with the Corps of Engineers, and Camp Gordon, Ga., with the Infantry. He embarked March 1, 1945, for France and served in France and Germany as a rifleman. He fought in the Campaigns of Southern France and Central Germany and has the Good Conduct Medal, the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars and the Army of Occupation Ribbon. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby on March 24, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



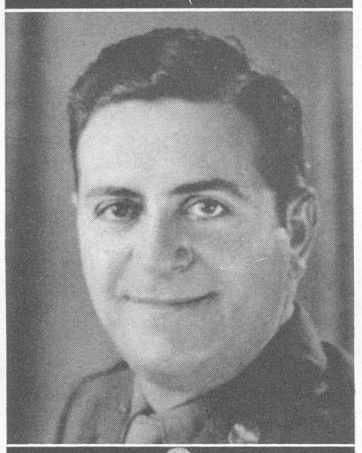
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① Charles E. Gant, Jr.

Fireman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Mrs. Marian Gant, 1714 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, and father of Charlesan Gant. He was born Sept. 3, 1926, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Gant. He attended Wichita Falls High School, Wichita Falls, Texas, and Baton Rouge High School, and entered the USN Reserve Aug. 29, 1944, at Dallas, Texas. He went from the U. S. Naval Training Station in San Diego, Calif., to the U. S. Naval Training Center at Gulfport, Miss., as a student in the Basic Engineering School. He received Motor Torpedo Boat training at Melville, R. I., and was assigned to duty with Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron No. 42 as Motor Machinist Mate. He served in the American Theater of Operations and has a Navy Letter of Commendation for outstanding performance of duty. He was granted his honorable discharge at the Naval Personnel Separation Center, Naval Air Station, New Orleans, on March 11, 1946.

② Theodore Sidney Barcelona, Jr.

Sergeant, Army Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Sidney Barcelona, 1714 Florida Street, Baton Rouge. He was born June 13, 1922, and attended Catholic High School and LSU. Entering the Army Air Forces July 30, 1942, at New Orleans, he went to Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, for basic training and to Sioux Falls Army Air Base, S. D., for Radio School. He received advanced radio technical training at Selfridge Field, Mich. On Dec. 10, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater of Operations. Sergeant Barcelona served at Oran, Algeria, North Africa, as radio operator and mechanic, at Casablanca, French Morocco, as radio mechanic and control tower operator, going to Naples, Italy. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on April 24, 1946.

③ Adley Joseph Poche

PFC, Infantry, AUS

Husband of Winnie Marie Aime Poche, 1637 West Mason Street, Baton Rouge, and father of Shirley Marie Poche, Sylvia Ann Poche and Adley Joseph Poche, Jr. He attended Dutchtown High School, and was inducted into the Army of the United States on Aug. 25, 1944, at New Orleans. He went to Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark., for basic training and to Camp Chaffee, Ark., and Camp Swift, Texas, serving with the Infantry. On April 24, 1945, he embarked for the European Theater where he served on guard and security duty in France and in Czechoslovakia. He has the Presidential Unit Citation Badge for outstanding performance of duty and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon. Returning to the States he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Swift, Texas, Oct. 24, 1945.

④ Sam S. Politz

S/Sgt., Air Forces

Husband of Beatrice M. Politz, 902 Washington Street, Baton Rouge, and son of Mrs. Virginia Politz, Route 1, Napoleonville. He was born Sept. 15, 1914, and attended Baton Rouge High School, Terrebonne High School, Napoleonville High School, and LSU. He was an employee of Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, Louisiana Division, in the storehouse department, prior to entering the Army Air Forces Feb. 8, 1943, at New Orleans. Staff Sergeant Politz served at Camp Beauregard, AAF Technical Training Center at St. Petersburg, Fla., Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College (AAF Technical Training School), and Baer Field, Ind., for assignment to a tactical unit. He served at Sedalia Army Air Field, Mo., as administrative clerk, at Pope Field, N. C., at Camp Shanks, N. Y., in charge of overseas shipment of his unit. Going to the European Theater on Jan. 29, 1944, he served at Ramsbury, England, at Montalto Di Castro, Italy, and at Coulommiers, France, as a personnel clerk. He served with the 437th Troop Carrier Group in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rome-Arno, Southern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the Presidential Unit Citation Badge, the Good Conduct Medal and the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with seven Campaign Stars. He was honorably discharged at Barksdale Field, Shreveport, Oct. 21, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Charles Lenton Sartain, Jr.

Captain, Airborne, Army

Husband of Peggy Lou Huddleston Sartain, 5784 Castile Avenue, Baton Rouge, formerly of Shreveport, and son of Charles Lenton and Ella Brignac Sartain, 440 France Street, Baton Rouge. He was born Sept. 19, 1920, and attended Catholic High School and LSU, having been a student in the LSU Law School at the time of his entering the Army June 10, 1942, at Fort Sill, Okla. Captain Sartain served at Fort Sill and at Fort Bragg, N. C., going overseas with the famed 82nd Airborne Division April 29, 1943, landing at Casablanca. He served in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, North Ireland, England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He qualified as parachutist and gliderist, and fought in the Campaigns of Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Normandy, the Rhineland, the Ardennes and Central Europe. He has the Silver Star for gallantry, the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Invasion Arrowhead, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with six Bronze Campaign Stars, and the Order of the Bronze Lion (The Netherlands). He was honorably released from active duty Dec. 12, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

② Joseph Elwood Sartain

Ensign, U. S. Merchant Marine

Son of Charles Lenton and Ella Brignac Sartain, 440 France Street, Baton Rouge. He was born Oct. 20, 1922, and attended Beauregard and Catholic High Schools in Baton Rouge and TCU in Fort Worth, Texas, being now at the United States Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, New York. Entering the USN Reserve in September, 1944, at Pass Christian, Miss., he embarked in February, 1945, for the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations as an enlisted man in the United States Naval Reserve, going to North Africa. He also served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations, going to the Philippines. Returning to the States, he became an ensign in the U. S. Merchant Marine Cadet Corps with which he was serving at the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York. He expected to complete his course as an officer in the Merchant Marine in 1947.

③ Joseph Clifton Morrell

PFC, Anti-Aircraft, AUS

Husband of Vonnie Langlois Morrell, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. George Matthews Morrell of Darlington, S. C. He attended St. John's High School, Darlington, and was junior engineer with E. B. Badger and Son prior to his induction into the Army June 18, 1943, at Fort Jackson, S. C. He served at Fort Jackson, at Fort Eustis, Va., at Camp Stewart, Ga. (advanced training), at Camp Beauregard and in the Louisiana Maneuvers, at Camp Polk and Camp Shanks, New York, from which he embarked Dec. 18, 1944, for the European Theater of Operations. He received combat training and staging at Codford, England, in Anti-Aircraft Artillery and served in Germany protecting bridgeheads and infantry troops from air attack. He was in combat in the Campaign of the Rhineland and the Campaign of Central Europe, and has the Presidential Unit Citation Badge. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on May 1, 1946.



④ Jesse L. Webb, Jr.

PFC, U. S. Army

Husband of Mary Estus Jones Webb, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse L. Webb, 200 South Twentieth Street, Baton Rouge. He has a son, Jesse Lynn Webb III. He was born Oct. 8, 1923, and attended Istrouma High School and LSU prior to entering the Army of the United States on April 15, 1943, at New Orleans. From Camp Beauregard he went to Camp Robinson, Ark., for infantry training, and Camp Fannin, Texas, for further training. At Miami Beach, Fla., he was classified for aviation cadet training and went to Fenn College, Ohio, for college training for aviation cadets. He received aerial gunnery training at Tyndall Field, Fla., and was disqualified for overseas duty because of a bursted eardrum received in aerial gunnery. After reclassification at Camp Luna, N. M., he went to Hamilton Field, Calif., as a small arms instructor and air freight technician. He was honorably discharged at Camp Beale, Calif., on Feb. 17, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



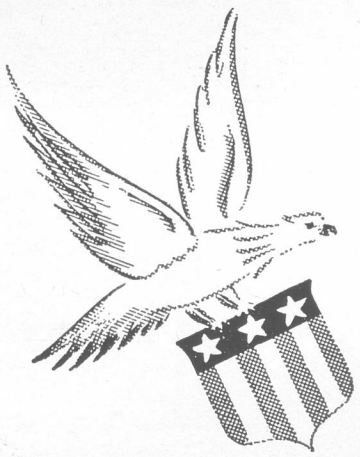
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① Kenneth L. Ehrett

PFC, FA, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Joseph Ehrett of Port Allen. He was born Sept. 9, 1915, and attended schools in Missouri, Illinois and Louisiana. He was engaged in construction work prior to entering the Army of the United States on Jan. 26, 1941, at Camp Bowie, Texas. He served at Camp Bowie, Texas, Camp Barkeley, Texas, Camp Gruber, Okla., and Camp Howze, Texas, in Battalion Supply Service with the 961st Field Artillery Battalion. On Jan. 19, 1944, he embarked for Belfast, Ireland, and served in France, Germany and Austria in Battalion Supply Service with the same Field Artillery unit. He was in combat in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland and Germany. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Oct. 23, 1945, after approximately four years and nine months of unselfish and faithful service with the Field Artillery.

② Raymond A. Ehrett

Sergeant, MC, AUS

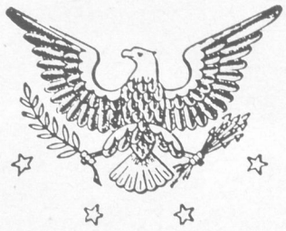
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Joseph Ehrett, Port Allen. He was born Oct. 19, 1906, and attended schools in Brunswick, Mo. He was a plumber and electrician prior to entering the Army of the United States in the Medical Corps on July 1, 1942, at Brunswick, Mo. From Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark., and Camp Livingston, he embarked Sept. 3, 1942, for the European Theater where he served in England, France, Ireland, Scotland, Belgium, Wales, Italy, Germany and Switzerland. Sergeant Ehrett has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge Sept. 18, 1945, at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. He re-enlisted in the United States Army on Nov. 20, 1945, at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

③ Russell J. Ehrett

Corporal, Marine Corps

Husband of Bernice Mae Hargroder Ehrett of Port Allen, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Joseph Ehrett, Route 1, Port Allen. He was born Feb. 6, 1921, and attended Edinburg and Devers High Schools. He was engaged in construction work prior to entering the United States Marine Corps on Sept. 9, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned to the U. S. Marine Corps Base at San Diego, Calif., for training, and to Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif., for special training as a demolitionist. On Jan. 16, 1943, he embarked for New Zealand and served there and on Guadalcanal, the New Hebrides, New Caledonia and American Samoa. He was in combat on Bougainville, British Solomon Islands (Nov. 1, 1943), Emirau Island in the St. Mathias Group (1944), Guam in the Mariana Islands (June 21, 1944), Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands (April 1, 1945), and on the Occupation of Japan (April 30, 1945). He has the Purple Heart for wounds received May 12, 1945, in the Marine fighting on Okinawa, and the Naval Unit Commendation for outstanding service and performance of duty in action against the enemy. Returning to the States, Corporal Ehrett was granted his honorable discharge Nov. 5, 1945, at the Marine Corps Base.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



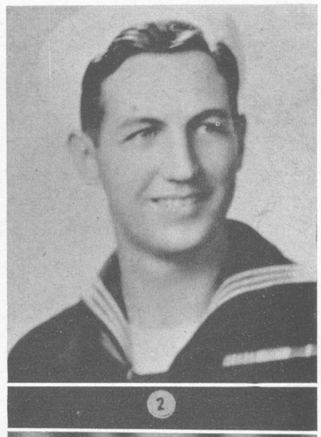
① Alvin Swindell Hodges

Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of DeEtte Draughon Hodges, 2611 Sycamore Street, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Hodges of Aurora, N. C. He was born Dec. 24, 1921, and attended Aurora High School, entering the Army of the United States at New Bern, N. C., on Jan. 3, 1941. He went from Fort Bragg, N. C., to Fort Moultrie, S. C., and Camp Van Dorn, Miss., as warehouse foreman and to Camp Siebert, Ala., as a handler of toxic gas. On Feb. 10, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater and served in England as a handler of toxic gas, and in France, Holland and Germany as a receiving and shipping clerk. He was in combat in the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the Good Conduct Medal, the Victory Medal, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Defense Service Ribbon, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon. He was honorably discharged Nov. 19, 1945, at Fort Bragg, N. C.



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② Archie John Watson

Electrician's Mate 1/C, USN

Husband of Doris Draughon Watson, 2563 Arbutus Street, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Arch M. Watson, 3452 Sycamore Street. He is a graduate of Istrouma High School and was an electrician for Standard Oil Company prior to entering the USN Reserve Sept. 5, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill., and went to Electrical School, Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa, and Gyro Compass School at San Diego Naval Training Station in California. He also served at the Naval Receiving Station, Bremerton, Wash., and the Naval Air Station, Astoria, Ore. On Aug. 27, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific area where he served aboard the USS Coral Sea and the USS Anzio from Aug. 27, 1943, to Oct. 8, 1945, approximately two years and two months. He was in combat in ten major Naval engagements including the Gilbert and Marshall Islands, the Admiralties, Hollandia (New Guinea), Saipan and Guam in the Marianas, the Philippines, Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the Japanese home islands. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with ten bronze Campaign Stars, the American Theater Ribbon and the Philippine LiLberation Ribbon.

③ Leo V. LeSage

Sergeant, U. S. Army

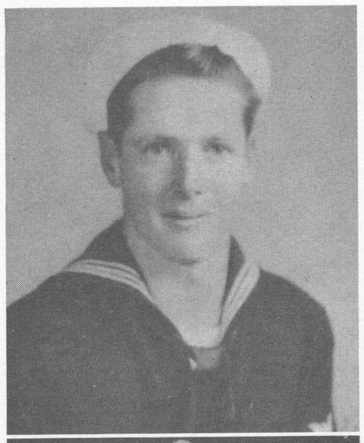
Husband of Ona Syble LeSage, Route 4, Baton Rouge, La. He was born Dec. 31, 1918, attended Central High School, and was employed by the Standard Oil Company prior to entering the service. Inducted March 13, 1944, he received his basic training at Camp Robinson, Ark. At Camp Atterbury, Ind., he was assigned to the 106th Infantry Division, and at Camp Shelby, Miss., he was assigned to the Fourth Service Command. On Oct. 21, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served in England, France, Belgium and Germany. During combat he served with the Third Army and after VE-Day he was assigned to the 15th Army of Occupation. Sergeant LeSage participated in the campaigns of Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the European Theater of Operations Medal with four Battle Stars, and the Good Conduct Medal. He is still in the service, assigned to the Fourth Service Command.

④ Clement I. Gore

Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Violet Marie Gore and father of Charles Wayne Gore, Route 4, Baton Rouge, La. He was born Feb. 5, 1924, and attended Central High School. Inducted March 22, 1943, at Baton Rouge, he was assigned to Cheyenne, Wyo., and to Camp Ellis, Ill., as a truck driver. On Jan. 9, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served in England, France, Belgium and Holland as a truck driver. Corporal Gore participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Central Europe and Rhineland. He has the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Fort Lewis, Wash., on Oct. 9, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Gore, Route 4, Baton Rouge, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Charles J. McCurnin

SP (Y) 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of James A. McCurnin, 4330 Hyacinth Avenue, Baton Rouge. He was born Aug. 18, 1925, and attended Catholic High School and Baton Rouge Senior High School where he was graduated June 2, 1941. Entering the USN Air Corps on June 5, 1942, at Baton Rouge, he went to the United States Naval Training Station at Great Lakes, Ill., for boot training. He studied radio at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and at Memphis Radio Technical School, Memphis, Tenn. From aerial gunnery school at Purcell, Okla., and gunnery school at Jacksonville, Fla., he embarked in August, 1943, for New Caledonia, where he served in New Guinea and Okinawa, returning to the States in March, 1945. He was continuing to serve with the Navy and re-enlisted Nov. 27, 1945, serving as SP (Y) 1/C in charge of tower operations at Atlantic City, N. J.

② James Tyler Patterson

Radioman 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Mary C. Patterson, 510 Park Boulevard, Baton Rouge, and the late Major J. T. Patterson. He was born Dec. 9, 1924, and attended Georgia Military Academy and Baton Rouge High School. Enlisting in the USN Jan. 12, 1943, he received basic training at the Naval Training Stations at San Diego and San Clemente Island. Embarking Nov. 23, 1943, for sea duty, he spent twenty-four months in overseas duty, serving with the USS Charles J. Badger DD 657, out of Bremerton, Wash. Radioman Third Class Patterson served in the strikes on the Gilbert and Marshall Islands which marked the taking of the first enemy-held territory in the Pacific of World War II. He was stationed for eighteen months in the Marshalls as a radioman and has the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal and the Admiral's Commendation for the Gilberts and the Marshalls Operations. Honorably discharged Feb. 4, 1946, at Bremerton, Wash., he returned to Baton Rouge to complete his education at LSU.

③ John Cunningham Terrell

Sergeant, Engineers, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Cunningham Terrell of Baton Rouge. He was born June 8, 1923, and attended Istrouma High School and Seventh Ward High School. He was employed as a plumber apprentice prior to his induction into the U. S. Army on Feb. 12, 1943, at New Orleans. Sergeant Terrell went from Camp Beauregard and Camp Claiborne to Camp Shanks, N. Y., port of embarkation. He left Aug. 21, 1943, for the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations, landing in North Africa Sept. 2, 1943. He was assigned to duty as a gauger of petroleum products in North Africa and Italy. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Rome-Arno, the North Apennines, and the Po Valley. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the Meritorious Service Plaque Award, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars and World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Dec. 3, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

④ Russel Peter Tate

PFC, Infantry, CE, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Iris Joan Hopkins Tate of Zachary and son of Mr. and Mrs. Wabe Hampton Tate of Denham Springs. He attended Denham Springs High School and was in construction work prior to entering the Army Sept. 9, 1942, at Denham Springs. He served at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Camp Beauregard, the University of Kentucky at Lexington, and Camp Breckinridge, Ky. On May 10, 1943, he went to the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater where he served in Africa and Italy with the Corps of Engineers and Infantry from May 24, 1943, to Sept. 19, 1944. He fought in the Campaigns of Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, the North Apennines, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the EAMETO Ribbon with five Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Purple Heart received for wounds in action against the enemy in Northern France on March 8, 1945. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby on Oct. 17, 1945.

① Henry J. Dupuy, Jr.

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Henry Edward and Edith LeJeune Dupuy of Addis, La. He was born July 17, 1912, attended Brusly High School, and was a post office clerk prior to entering the service. He was inducted July 2, 1942, at New Orleans, and received his Infantry training at Camp Robinson, Arkansas, Fort Sheridan, Ill., Camp Reynolds, Pa., and Camp Miles Standish, Mass. On June 2, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served in England, France, Germany and Belgium. Sergeant Dupuy participated in the campaigns of the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., Oct. 17, 1945. He is the husband of LaVerne Lynne Price Dupuy and the father of Edith LaVerne and Henri Lynne Dupuy of Plaquemine, La.



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② Hubert Joseph Dupuy

Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Henry Edward and Edith LeJeune Dupuy of Addis, La. He was born Oct. 29, 1913, attended Brusly High School, and was a railroad machinist helper prior to entering the service. He was inducted Jan. 16, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, and received his Field Artillery training at Fort Bragg, N. C., Fort Sill, Okla., Camp Leonard Wood, Mo., Camp Forrest, Tenn., Fort Jackson, S. C., and Camp Kilmer, N. J. On Dec. 5, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater, and he participated in the battles ot Ay River, La Haye Du Puits, Lessay, Coutances, Avranches, At. Aubin, d'Aubigne, Dinan, Dinard, Brest and the Northern France Campaign. He was killed in action at Brest, Sept. 15, 1944. The Silver Star Medal, the Purple Heart and the Presidential Citation were awarded posthumously to his mother.



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③ Kenneth Louis Dupuy

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Henry Edward and Edith LeJeune Dupuy of Addis, La. He was born Dec. 3, 1916, attended Brusley High School, and was employed by the Cinclare Sugar Company prior to entering the service. He was inducted Oct. 2, 1940, at Jeanerette, La., and received his Infantry training at Camp Blanding, Fla., Camp Bowie, Texas, and Fort Dix, N. J. On Sept. 25, 1942, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served in England, in North Africa at St. Cloud, Oran, Algiers and Corsica; and in France. Sergeant Dupuy participated in the campaigns of Rome-Arno, Southern France and Rhineland, and he has the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal with three Bronze Stars, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., Oct. 14, 1945.



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The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Donald Jackson Smith

Captain, Army of U. S.

Son of William Ernest Smith of Bakersfield, Calif., he was born Nov. 9, 1920, and attended Bolton High School, Alexandria, Bakersfield High School, Calif., and LSU. He was a forester with the United States Forest Service prior to enlisting in the Army of the United States in the Infantry on Sept. 29, 1942, at Baton Rouge. He went from Camp Beauregard to Fort Benning, Ga., Officer Candidate School, and was assigned to duty at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., as aide de camp to Brig. Gen. Robert N. Young and Brig. Gen. Thomas W. Herren, transferring to the 276th Infantry Regiment of the 70th (Trailblazer) Infantry Division as liaison officer for the regimental commander. On Dec. 5, 1944, he embarked for France and was in combat in the Colmar Pocket, Moselle River Crossing and Rhine Bridgehead, Battles of Wingen, Forbach, Saarbrucken and Volklingen, serving also in the Army of Occupation. In addition to liaison officer he served as Headquarters Company Executive, Intelligence and Reconnaissance Platoon Leader, and in Military Government. He has the Combat Infantry Badge, European Theater Ribbon, Occupation Ribbon, American Defense Service, American Theater and Victory Ribbons.

② William Graham Jackson, Jr.

Private, Infantry, Army

Husband of Faye Foil Jackson and son of Mrs. Robert A. Hart II of 969 Louisiana Avenue, Baton Rouge. He was born July 16, 1922, and attended Bolton High School, Alexandria. Entering the U. S. Army on Nov. 25, 1940, at Alexandria, he served at Camp Beauregard, at Camp Blanding, Fla., at Fort Fisher, N. C., assigned to coastal guard duty, and at Camp Bowie, Texas. Transferring to the Corps of Engineers, he served at Camp Murray, Fort Lawton, Wash., going to Alaska Oct. 29, 1942. He served at Anchorage, Bethel, McGrath and Adak in the Aleutians in air base construction. From Fort Belvoir, Va., he went to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where he transferred to MPEG. He was assigned to duty at Fort Wadsworth, N. Y., escorting German prisoners to prison Camps, and at Fort Dix, N. J., for Military Police Training. He served in Trenton, N. J., assigned to duty with the town patrol, and Fort Missoula, Mont. From Jefferson Park Army-Navy Recreation Camp he returned to Fort Lewis, Wash., where he was granted his honorable discharge on Sept. 27, 1945.

③ Thomas Pullen Singletary

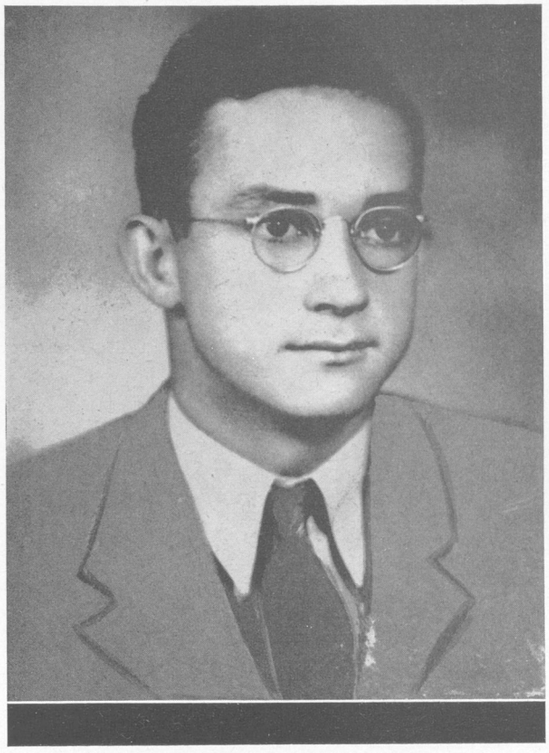
First Lieut., USM Air Corps

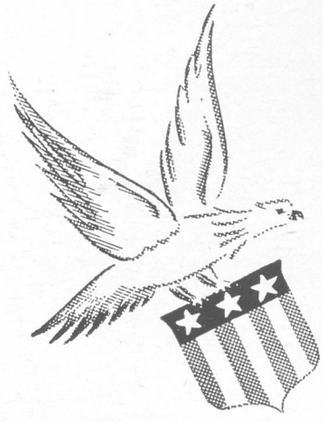
Husband of Mitzi Burden Singletary of Napoleonville and son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas John Singletary, Baton Rouge. He was born Sept. 20, 1922, and attended Sewanee Military Academy and LSU. In September, 1942, he entered the U. S. Marine Air Corps and was assigned for instruction to Air Fields at Clarksdale and Natchitoches, going to Memphis, Tenn., Athens, Ga., and Pensacola, Fla., for further training. He served at the U. S. Marine Air Base at Cherry Point, N. C., the U. S. Naval Air Base at Daytona Beach, Fla., the U. S. Marine Air Base at Eagle Mountain Lake, Fort Worth, Texas, and the U. S. Marine Corps Air Depot at Miramar, Calif. On May 19, 1945, he embarked for Ulithi Atoll where he was assigned throughout his duty in the Pacific area with the U. S. Marine Air Corps. Lieutenant Singletary has the Air Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on his return to the United States.

④ Malcolm Stewart Dougherty, Jr.

Lieutenant (jg), USNR

Husband of Mrs. Juliet Singletary Dougherty, Baton Rouge, and father of Miss "Topsy" Dougherty. He was born July 30, 1914, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Stewart Dougherty of Linwood Plantation, Jackson, and attended LSU (B. S. degree, 1935), and Texas A. & M. College (M. S. degree, 1937). He entered the USNR April 25, 1944, at Princeton, N. J., and served at the U. S. Naval Training School (Indoctrination) at Princeton as a staff member. He was on the staff at the USNRMS, Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind., and was on instruction duty at the Naval Training Center, Miami. He served with COMSERVPAV at Pearl Harbor and Honolulu, T. H., and with COMSERV Division 102 at Tokyo Bay, Japan. Lieutenant Dougherty embarked Nov. 12, 1945, for duty with the COM Service Forces in the Pacific area, and was stationed at Yokosuka, Japan, for duty in the transportation office routing and loading returning servicemen from the empire area and Okinawa. He has the American and Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbons and Victory Medal, and was honorably discharged March 15, 1946, at the Officers' Separation Center, New Orleans.





Frederick R. Allain

T/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edmond J. Allain of Port Allen, La., and husband of Gladys B. Allain. Allain attended school at Port Allen, La. Entering the service Oct. 28, 1942, he was assigned to Keesler Field, Miss., Chanute Field, Ill., and Ft. Wayne, Ind. As a trained crew chief he departed Feb. 7, 1944, for Liberia, Africa. Sergeant Allain was killed in action. A Presidential Citation was posthumously awarded. He was the father of Geraldine A. Allain.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



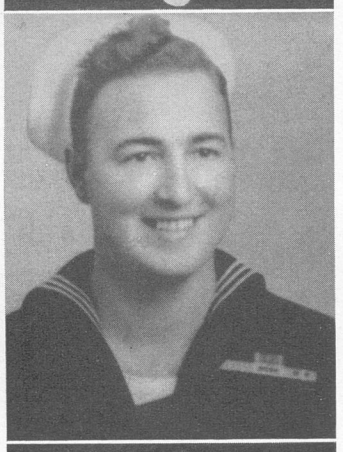
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② George B. Nesbit

Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Nesbit of Baton Rouge, La., he was born March 30, 1925, and attended Catholic High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the service Aug. 10, 1943, Nesbit was assigned to Camp Adair, Ore., later being sent to Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., Camp Beale, Calif., and Camp Stoneman, Calif. He departed July 1, 1944, for overseas and participated in the bitter fighting of the Western Pacific and Southern Philippines. Corporal Nesbit was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars and one Bronze Arrowhead, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal and Combat Infantryman Badge. He was discharged Feb. 21, 1946.

③ G. Eustis Nesbit, Jr.

T/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Nesbit, Sr., he was born Aug. 19, 1918, and attended Louisiana State University. Entering the service Oct. 3, 1941, Nesbit was assigned to Camp Wheeler, Ga., for training, later being sent to Drew Field, Fla., McClelland Field, Calif. He departed Sept. 1, 1942, for overseas and participated in the bitter fighting of the Southern Philippines and Luzon. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star, the American Defense Medal and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Oct. 10, 1945.

① John P. Nesbit

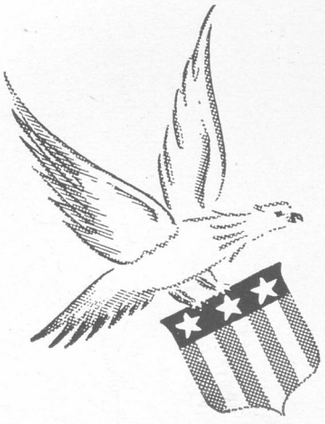
Lieutenant (jg), U. S. Navy

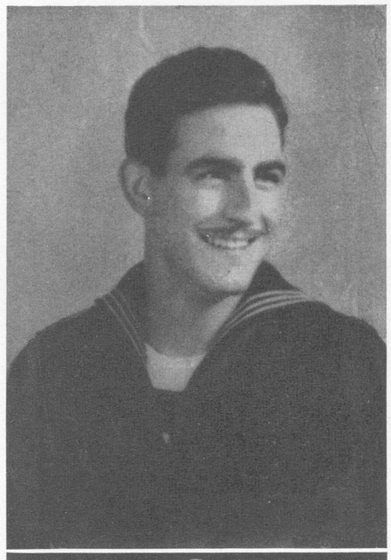
Son of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Nesbit of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Oct. 10, 1920, and attended Catholic High School, Louisiana State University and Baton Rouge Business College. Entering the service Aug. 5, 1942, Nesbit was assigned to LSU for pilot training. He also received training at the University of Georgia, Norman, Okla., and Pensacola, Fla. Lieutenant Nesbit departed July 3, 1944, for overseas where he served as a gunnery officer, assistant operations officer, assistant maintenance officer, assistant operations and flight officer. He was awarded the Navy-Marine Corps Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Feb. 2, 1946.

④ Roland Joseph Daigle

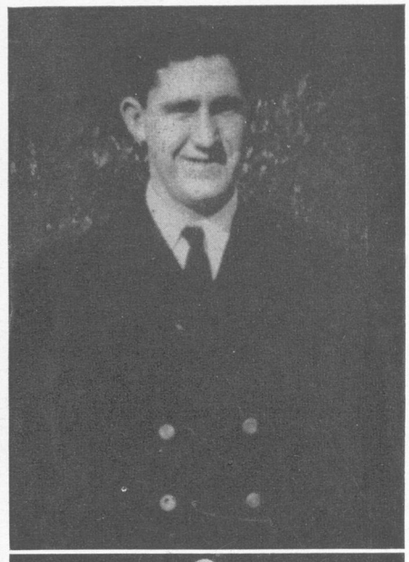
Y 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of George Alcide Daigle and husband of Carmelitte Nesbit Daigle, he was born July 11, 1923. Daigle attended Catholic High School. Entering the service Jan. 25, 1943, he was assigned to Great Lakes, Ill., for training, later being assigned to the USS New Jersey. He departed July 8, 1943, for overseas aboard the USS New Jersey and participated in battles and campaigns from the Marshall Islands to Japan. Daigle was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with nine Battle Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Battle Stars, and the American Theater Ribbon. After more than two years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged Oct. 17, 1945.





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① Lawrence Ray LeBlanc

U. S. Navy

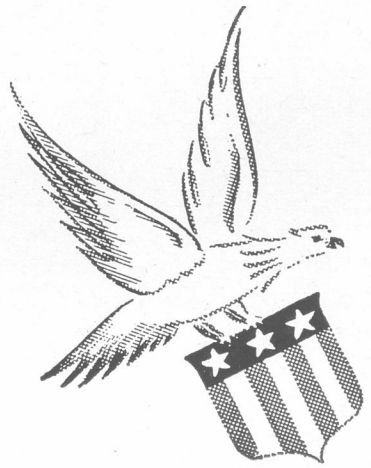
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben LeBlanc of Baton Rouge, La. He was born June 6, 1922, and attended Brusly High School. Prior to entering the armed forces, he was employed at the Delta Shipyard. Dec. 17, 1942, he entered the U. S. Navy at Camp Peary, Va., and was later sent to Fort Pierce, Fla. Lawrence Ray lost his life on Monday, Jan. 29, 1945, as he was welding a pad eye on the skin of his ship. While welding a large wave caused a short circuit which went through his body. He was serving outside the continental limits of the United States from Jan. 5, 1944, until the time of his death. On Aug. 23, 1944, he was authorized to wear the Amphibious Force insignia, and he participated with credit in the action against Japanese enemy forces in the Palau Islands operation from Sept. 12, 1944, until Sept. 23, 1944. He was well liked by his commanding officer and his team, who said of him: "He was just as much a hero in the manner of his death and his is a loss the Navy can ill afford."

② Olen Joseph LeBlanc

Third Officer, Transportation Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben LeBlanc of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Aug. 28, 1923. He attended Brusly High School and Louisiana State University, and was employed at the Delta Shipyard before entering the armed forces. May 19, 1943, he entered the U. S. Army at New Orleans, La., and was later stationed at St. Petersburg, Fla. Departing Dec. 22, 1943, for the Pacific area, he served at New Guinea, Philippines and the Southwest Pacific Islands, and participated in the New Guinea and Pacific Campaigns. LeBlanc received an honorable discharge April 24, 1946, at Seattle, Wash.



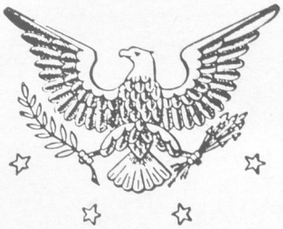


Oscar A. Gascon, Jr.

S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar A. Gascon, Sr., of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Jan. 1, 1924, and attended Plaquemine High School. Gascon enlisted in the U. S. Army Oct. 30, 1942, and received training at Lake Charles, La., later being sent to Victoria, Texas, Seymour Johnson Field, N. C., Ft. Myers, Fla., Salt Lake City, Utah, and Grand Island, Neb. He departed Jan. 20, 1944, for overseas. Sergeant Gascon was reported missing in action on a mission to Dessau, Germany, May 28, 1944. This gallant boy who gave his life for his country was awarded the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the European Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Stars and the Good Conduct Medal.

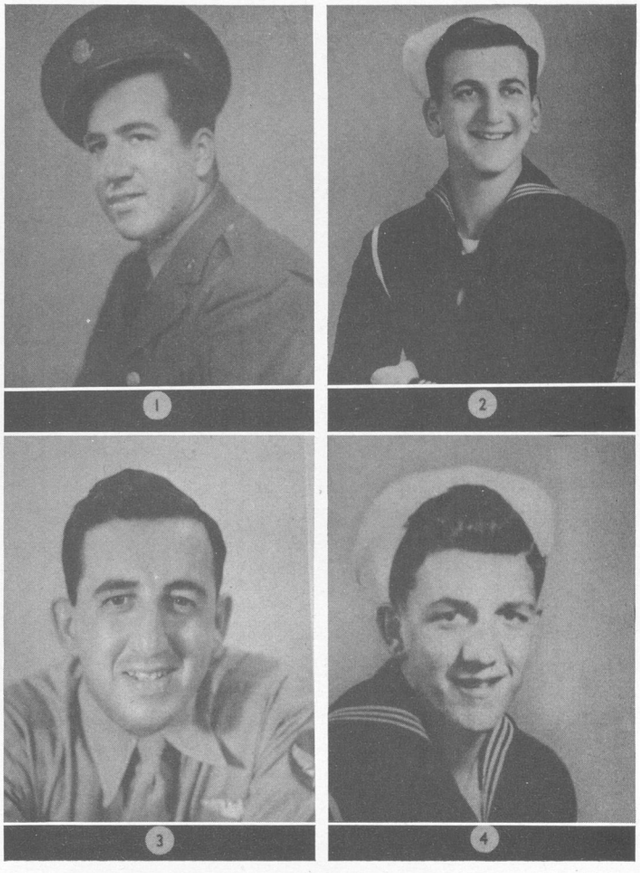
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Allison J. Barbier

First Sergeant, Army Air Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex J. Barbier of White Castle, La., was born May 20, 1921. He attended the White Castle High School and Baton Rouge Business College. On Jan. 30, 1941, he entered the Army Air Force at Maxwell Field, Ala., and received training as an airplane mechanic at Eglin Field and Tyndall Field, Fla. He was then shipped to Greensboro, N. C., for overseas training. On Oct. 12, 1944, Sergeant Barbier departed for Hickam Field, Hawaii where he served as a first sergeant. He also served in this capacity at Harmon Field, Guam, Okinawa and Tokyo, Japan. For service in the battles for Guam and Okinawa he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. Allison Barbier is the husband of Elmina L. Barbier and father of Allison J. Barbier, Jr. Discharged Oct. 2, 1945.



1 2 3 4

② Stanford A. Barbier

Yeoman 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex J. Barbier of White Castle, La. He was born Sept. 6, 1928, and attended White Castle High School. On June 22, 1945, he entered the service and was assigned to the U. S. Navy. He received his training at San Diego, Calif., and was later assigned to Port Hueneme, Calif., where he served as a communications clerk. He received his discharge on Aug. 5, 1946, at New Orleans, La.

③ John A. Barbier

PFC, Army Air Corps

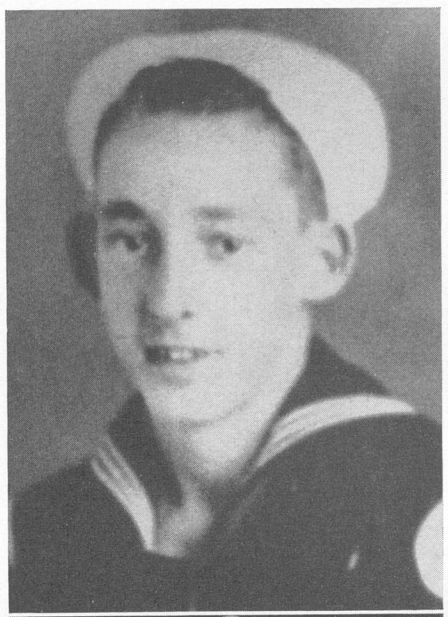
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex J. Barbier of White Castle, La., he was born Nov. 12, 1922. Upon graduation from the White Castle High School he attended Spencer Business College of Baton Rouge. Barbier entered the Army Air Corps on Nov. 25, 1943, at Lafayette, La. He was assigned to Williams Field, Ariz., as a military policeman. On April 6, 1946, PFC Barbier was honorably discharged from the service at Camp Shelby, Miss.

④ Gerald James Barbier

Seaman 2/C, U. S. Navy

Killed in action in the grim Naval warfare of the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea on Nov. 5, 1944. He was born Nov. 4, 1925, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex J. Barbier of White Castle, and attended White Castle High School, graduating in June, 1943. After graduation he enlisted in the United States Navy on Nov. 8, 1943. He was assigned for boot training to the United States Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif. Completing his boot training, he was assigned to U. S. Naval Signal School in San Diego. After the completion of his preparatory duty with the Navy, Signalman Barbier was assigned to the USS Lexington, the great American aircraft carrier later lost in action. He participated in the bitter Naval battles for Guam, Saipan, Tinian and the First Battle of the Philippine Sea. He was serving with the Pacific Fleet as a Signalman during the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea when he lost his life in action against the enemy, fighting for his country in the great Naval campaign to retake the Philippines, on Nov. 5, 1944.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



1



2



① Jerry Joseph Hernandez

S 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Alvey Hernandez of Plaquemine, La., he was born June 27, 1927, and attended Plaquemine High School and St. John's Catholic School. He entered the Seabees May 17, 1945, and received training at San Diego, Calif. Later Hernandez was sent to Camp Parks, Calif. Departing Oct. 21, 1945, he served at Samar, Philippines. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon and Victory Ribbon.

② Vern Joseph LeBlanc

T/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Samuel LeBlanc of Plaquemine, La., and husband of Elmeda M. LeBlanc, he was born Jan. 11, 1920, and attended St. John's Catholic School and Plaquemine High School. Entering the service June 29, 1944, he was assigned to Camp Fannin, Texas, Fort Ord, Calif., and Fort Lawton, Wash. He departed Dec. 26, 1945, for overseas and participated in the fighting at Okinawa, Chocolate Drop Hill, Sugar Loaf Hill, Shuri Castle and Leyte. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Occupational Ribbon and Combat Infantryman's Badge. Sergeant LeBlanc is now serving with the Army of Occupation on the Island of Hokkaido. He is the father of Sherry Ann LeBlanc.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Janana Darby

American Red Cross

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Darby of Plaquemine, La., she was born Dec. 1, 1920. Janana attended Plaquemine High School, Sweet Briar College, Sweet Briar, Va., and Soule College, New Orleans, La. She entered the American Red Cross Sept. 24, 1945, at New Orleans, La., and served as assistant Supervisor in Washington, D. C. Departing Nov. 21, 1945, for Manila, Janana served as assistant Supervisor there until being sent to Tokyo, Japan. She is still serving with the American Red Cross in Japan.



1

② Woodrow Paul Ovbre

C C Steward, U. S. Army

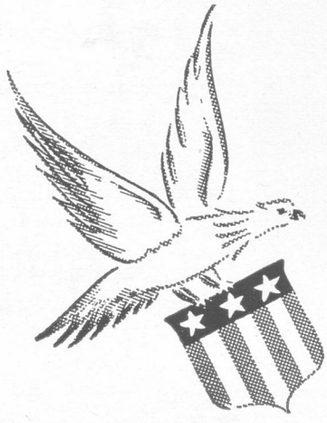
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Emide Ovbre of Plaquemine, La., and husband of Mary Louise Simqnaux, he was born Nov. 13, 1918. Ovbre attended school at Plaquemine, La. Entering the service Sept. 8, 1941, he was assigned to Boston, Mass. He departed Oct. 15, 1943, for England where he served as first-class cook. He left England Jan. 25, 1945, and arrived in the States Feb. 18, 1945. On April 14, 1945, he departed for the Pacific and served as Chief Commissary Steward on the Marshall Islands, Guam, Guadalcanal, New Caledonia, Russell Islands and Saipan. After more than four years of faithful service to his country, Ovbre was discharged Oct. 2, 1945. He is the father of Woodrow Paul, Jr., and Barbara Ann Ovbre.



2



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③ Norman St. Philip Hernandez

Motor Machinist Mate 2/C, USN

Husband of Marie Elvige Hernandez of Carville and father of Corman Faye Hernandez. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Hernandez of Carville, and attended White Castle High School at White Castle. He was employed as an ambulance driver and government chauffeur at the U. S. Marine Hospital at Carville prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve on March 21, 1944, at Lafayette. After induction at Lafayette he went to the United States Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., for boot training and was assigned to Balboa Park Receiving Station, from which he went to the Amphibious Training Station at Coronado for Diesel training. Assigned to the USS Warrick AKA 89, he embarked for the Pacific Theater Oct. 25, 1944, and served through the remainder of the war. He was in combat in the Invasion of Lingayen Gulf on Luzon and Iwo Jima and served also in New Guinea, the Solomons, New Caledonia, the Southern Philippines, the Marianas, the Ryukyus Group, Honshu and Hokkaido Provinces, Japan. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and American Theater Ribbon, and was honorably discharged on Dec. 6, 1945, at New Orleans.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① James LeRoy Barthel

② Dupuy Prosper Barthel

③ Mitchel J. Sanchez

④ Ernest Adam Sanchez

⑤ Lawrence Alfred McQuiston

⑥ Fritz Joseph Wunstel

⑦ Edgar Vernon Wunstel

⑧ Roy Joseph Couvillion

⑨ Aline Marie Songy

⑩ Edward August Songy

⑪ Oliver Joseph Songy

⑫ Joseph Dietrick Songy

⑬ Joseph Lawrence Hidalgo

⑭ Frank Hidalgo

⑮ Joseph Curby Hidalgo

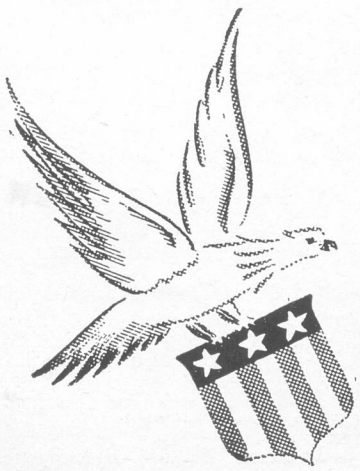
⑯ George Adam Hidalgo

⑰ Vernon L. Sanchez

⑱ Raymond Joseph Sanchez

⑲ Lynn N. Chauvin

⑳ Silas Young, Jr.



① JAMES LEROY BARTHEL, Tec/4, SC, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Barthel, St. Gabriel. He was born Nov. 28, 1923, and attended St. Gabriel High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the Army Jan. 28, 1943, he served with the Signal Corps at Fort Knox, Ky., Camp Chaffee, Ark., and Camp Campbell, Ky., and was assigned to duty as radio electrician. Going to Europe Jan. 4, 1945, with the 16th Tank Battalion as radio electrician, he served in France, Germany and Czechoslovakia and was in combat in the Campaign of Central Europe, having the European Theater Ribbon with one Star, American Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was discharged Feb. 5, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

② DUPUY PROSPER BARTHEL, First Lieut., SC, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Barthel, St. Gabriel, and husband of Mrs. Genevieve Roberts Barthel of Port Allen. He was born March 15, 1920, and attended St. Gabriel High School and Louisiana State University, entering the Army Oct. 3, 1941. He served at Fort Riley, Kan., Fort Dix, N. J., Drew Field, Fla., Fort Monmouth, N. J., and Kelly Field, Texas, with the Signal Corps, and embarked Feb. 12, 1942, for Australia as supply officer for the 700th Signal Aircraft Warning Company. He served in New Caledonia and the Pacific Islands as supply and evacuation officer, 579th Signal AW Battalion and fought in the Coral Sea and Guadalcanal Campaigns. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon (two stars), Unit Citation, Good Conduct and American Defense Service Ribbons.

③ MITCHEL J. SANCHEZ, EM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Sanchez, Route 1, Sunshine, Iberville Parish. He entered the United States Naval Reserve July 28, 1944, at San Diego, Calif., and went to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego for recruit training. He was next assigned to the Amphibious Training Base, San Diego, for Small Craft School. With the USS Cortland, Electrician's Mate Third Class Sanchez served in all parts of the Pacific area and was in combat in the Naval fighting of the Invasion of Okinawa. Returning to the States, he was assigned to the U. S. Naval Repair Base at New Orleans and was granted his battleship discharge at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans, on April 6, 1946.

④ ERNEST ADAM SANCHEZ, GM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Sanchez, Route 1, Sunshine. He was born April 24, 1925, and attended St. Gabriel High School. Entering the United States Naval Reserve Sept. 24, 1943, at Lafayette, he was assigned to the United States Naval Training Station in San Diego, Calif., going from there to the Small Craft Training Center at San Pedro, Calif. He was assigned to duty with USS PC 791. He was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on March 15, 1945, after serving throughout his term of military duty in the waters of Continental United States.

⑤ LAWRENCE ALFRED McQUISTON, Tec/Sgt., Air Forces

Husband of Mrs. June Yvetta Marks McQuiston, 510 Pine street, Pineville, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Odgar B. Wunstel, Route 2, Plaquemine. He attended Plaquemine High School and was with a government dredge boat, the USS Pullen, and was also a sheet metal worker prior to entering the Army Air Forces on July 1, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Amarillo Army Air Base, Texas, at Sioux Falls, S. D. (AAFTS), as a radio operator and mechanic, and at Yuma, Ariz., AAFTS, for aerial gunnery training. From Dyersburg, Tenn., he went to the 19th Replacement Center in Italy, embarking Oct. 15, 1944. He served with the 483rd Bombardment Group, 817th Bombardment Squadron, and with the Home Bound Task Force, transporting Infantry troops back to the States. He was in combat in bombardment missions over Germany and has the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the European Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation Badge, and was missing in action for 37 days. He was honorably discharged Nov. 14, 1945.

⑥ FRITZ JOSEPH WUNSTEL, SC 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Odgar B. Wunstel, Route 2, Plaquemine. He was born Sept. 8, 1924, and attended Shady Grove High School. He was a bakery shop employee in Baton Rouge prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on Oct. 2, 1942, at New Orleans. From the United States Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., he went to the Navy Yard at Bremerton, Wash., and to Treasure Island, Calif., embarking March 3, 1943, for Attu and Kiska in Alaska. He was in combat in the Invasion of Okinawa and Iwo Jima, in Naval strikes on the city of Tokyo, strikes and bombardments of the Japanese home islands, strikes on Kyushu, in the Battle for Leyte Gulf in the Philippine Islands, and on Guam in the Marianas Islands. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars. He was honorably discharged on Oct. 28, 1945, at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans.

⑦ EDGAR VERNON WUNSTEL, Tec/5, Armored Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Odgar B. Wunstel, Route 2, Plaquemine. He was born June 4, 1921, and attended Shady Grove High School. A steel worker prior to his induction, he entered the Army of the United States (Armored Force) on Sept. 9, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, and served at Fort Knox, Ky., and Fort Jackson, S. C. Operating a tank, he went to the European Theater of Operations Sept. 9, 1944, and served in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He was in combat in the Ardennes Forest (Battle of the Bulge), the Campaign of the Rhineland, and the Campaign of Central Europe. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds at Eschweiler, Germany, Nov. 20, 1944, the Good Conduct Ribbon, Victory Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Stars. He was honorably discharged in Bremen, Germany, Dec. 10, 1945, and reenlisted in the Regular Army for foreign service.

⑧ ROY JOSEPH COUVILLION, MM 2/C, U. S. Navy (R)

Husband of Cleora Brown Couvillion and Gilmore Couvillion, Plaquemine. He was born Aug. 13, 1926, and attended Plaquemine High School. He was with Nadler Foundry and Machine Company prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve Aug. 2, 1944. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, and Camp Shoemaker, Calif., he served with USS Harrison DD 573 and USS Renshaw, embarking for Pearl Harbor Jan. 4, 1945, to serve with the Third US Fleet operating at Iwo Jima and Okinawa and in the Third Fleet's strikes against the Japanese empire and the Suruga Wan Raid. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars, American Theater Ribbon, and Victory Ribbon, and was discharged June 4, 1946.

⑨ ALINE MARIE SONGY, First Lieutenant, U. S. Army Nurses' Corps

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Songy, Plaquemine, La. She was born Nov. 30, 1919, and attended Hotel Dieu Training School for Nursing. She was inducted Feb. 18, 1942, and served at Camp Polk, Camp Davis, Camp Blanding and Camp Grant. On Oct. 12, 1945, she embarked for the European Theater, and was assigned to Surgical Nursing in France and Belgium, participating in the Normandy Invasion. She has the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal with one Bronze Star. She was honorably discharged at Fort Sam Houston, on Feb. 5, 1946.

⑩ EDWARD AUGUST SONGY, U. S. Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver J. Songy, Plaquemine, La. He was born Jan. 19, 1922, and attended Plaquemine High School. He was inducted Oct. 28, 1942, and received his training at Lake Charles Army Air Base, Jefferson Barracks, Amarillo Army Air Base and Lowry Field. On March 2, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater and completed 16 combat missions in the Air Offensive over Japan. He has the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with two Bronze Stars, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged Nov. 3, 1945, at Fort Sam Houston.

⑪ OLIVER JOSEPH SONGY, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Songy, Plaquemine, La. He was born Nov. 10, 1920, and attended Plaquemine schools. He was inducted May 6, 1942, at Baton Rouge, and received his training at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., at Moffett Field, Calif., and the Naval Receiving Station, Shoemaker, Calif. On March 6, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Theater and assigned to the USS General Harry Taylor (AP 145), he served both the Pacific and the Atlantic Theaters. He was honorably discharged at Nashville, Tenn., on Nov. 21, 1945.

⑫ JOSEPH DIETRICK SONGY, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver J. Songy of Plaquemine, La. He was born Sept. 7, 1923, and attended Plaquemine High School. He was inducted May 7, 1944, at New Orleans, and received his training at Camp Wallace, Texas, and the Naval Receiving Station, Norfolk, Va. After his training, he was assigned to the USS Mt. Hood aboard which he served in the Atlantic and the Pacific Theaters. The Mt. Hood blew up in an accidental explosion while unloading a cargo of ammunition in Manius Harbor, the Admiralty Islands, and Seaman First Class Songy was fatally wounded. The Purple Heart was awarded Nov. 10, 1944.

⑬ JOSEPH LAWRENCE HIDALGO, Seaman 2/C, USN

Son of Mrs. Henry Joseph Hidalgo of Plaquemine, La. He was born Nov. 20, 1926, and is a graduate of the Plaquemine High School. Before entering the armed forces, he worked for the Aluminum Ore Company of America. Joseph entered the U. S. Navy Aug. 15, 1944.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑭ FRANK HIDALGO, Chief Petty Officer, U. S. Navy

Son of Arvile Hidalgo of Plaquemine, La., and husband of Gladys Agnes Hidalgo, he was born Jan. 6, 1910. Hidalgo attended Iberville Parish schools. Entering the service Dec. 9, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Perry, Va., for training. He departed April 14, 1943, for Guadalcanal. Hidalgo participated in the bitter fighting at Guadalcanal and Leyte. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with three Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, Good Conduct Ribbon and American Theater Ribbon. He was discharged Sept. 7, 1945. He is the father of Linda Marie Hidalgo.

⑮ JOSEPH CURBY HIDALGO, AMM 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Arvila Naquin Hidalgo and husband of Mary Louis C. Hidalgo of Plaquemine, La., he was born March 25, 1911. Prior to his services with the U. S. Navy Hidalgo was employed with Standard Oil Company of Louisiana. Entering the service Sept. 7, 1942, he was assigned to Jacksonville, Fla., as a seaman guard, Blue Jackets Guard in the Fire Department and Assembly and Repair Department. He was discharged Oct. 1, 1945, at Jacksonville, Fla.

⑯ GEORGE ADAM HIDALGO, CMMR, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Arvila N. Hidalgo and husband of Saraphine M. Rosso Hidalgo of Plaquemine, La., he was born July 7, 1906. He attended Plaquemine High School. Entering the service Nov. 9, 1942, Hidalgo was assigned to Camp Allen, Va., later being sent to Camp Bradford, Va. He departed May 22, 1943, for Dutch Harbor, where he was in charge of all refrigeration repairs and building of new plants. After faithfully serving his country for more than two years he was discharged Feb. 13, 1945.

⑰ VERNON L. SANCHEZ, C. C. S., U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sanchez, Route 2, Plaquemine, La. He was born Oct. 2, 1921, and attended Plaquemine schools. He was inducted Oct. 7, 1941, and received his training at the USNRS, Naval Station, New Orleans, and at the USN Section Base, Burrwood, La. He was then assigned to the USS Christiana. On May 4, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, participating in the Campaigns of the Marshall Islands, Guam, Saipan and Wake Island. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans, Nov. 2, 1945.

⑱ RAYMOND JOSEPH SANCHEZ, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Sanchez, Route 2, Plaquemine, he was born Feb. 15, 1925, and attended Plaquemine and Belle Rose schools. He was inducted July 16, 1943, at Lafayette, and received his training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, at the Naval Receiving Station, Shoemaker, Calif., and at the Naval Air Station, Memphis, Tenn. On May 18, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and was assigned to the Naval Air Station at Pearl Harbor. He is still on active duty in the service.

⑲ LYNN N. CHAUVIN, Tec/Sgt., AAF

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Joseph Chauvin of Rosedale. He was born July 17, 1920, and attended Shady Grove High School. He was employed by Slack Brothers Central Refinery prior to his induction into the Army Air Forces on Dec. 22, 1941, at Camp Shelby, Miss. He served at Keesler Field, Miss., basic and Aircraft Mechanics' School, Hunter Field, Savannah, Ga., where he was an aircraft mechanic, and Waycross Army Air Base, Ga., as crew chief. On April 28, 1943, he embarked for Oran, North Africa. He served with the 12th Air Force and U. S. Strategic Air Force as aerial engineer on C-47 type aircraft in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Corsica, France and Germany. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, the North Apennines, and the Po Valley. He has the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action, the Good Conduct Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with five Bronze Campaign Stars. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on Oct. 22, 1945.

⑳ SILAS YOUNG, JR., Corporal, Air Forces

Husband of Beatrice Young of Rosedale and son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Oscar Young of Rosedale. He was born Nov. 21, 1923, and attended Shady Grove School. He was an oil field worker prior to his induction into the Army Air Forces on June 16, 1943, at Lafayette. Corporal Young served at Amarillo Army Air Base, Texas, Camp Lee, Va., Salt Lake City, Utah, Harvard, Neb., Seymour Johnson Field at Goldsboro, N. C. (Overseas Replacement Training Center), and Camp Patrick Henry, Va. He was assigned to duty as a heavy duty truck driver. On June 1, 1944, he embarked for Naples, Italy, and served at Bagnolia, Bari, San Severa, Riminia and Fano. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Rome-Arno and the North Apennines. He has the Good Conduct Medal, European Theater Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Award, Victory Medal and Truck Driver's Badge. He was honorably discharged Nov. 9, 1945, at Drew Field, Fla.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



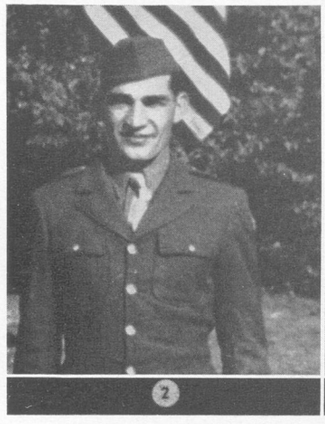
① Larrance Philip O'Lano

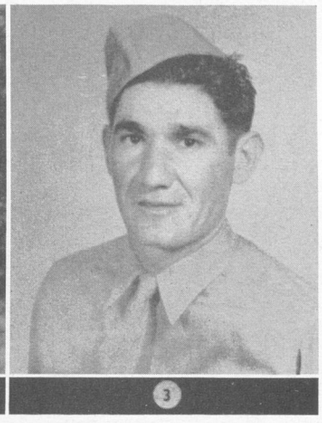
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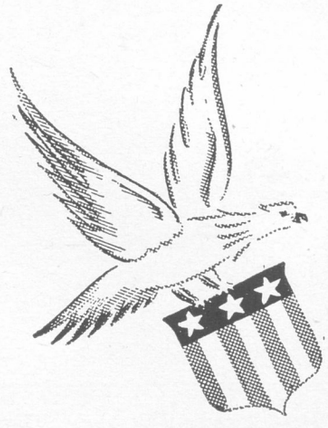
② Frank Ragusa

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Philip and Elizabeth Ragusa of Plaquemine, La. He was born Oct. 30, 1915, and attended the Plaquemine Elementary and High Schools. Prior to entering the armed forces he was employed as molder at Nadler's Foundry. Aug. 3, 1942, he entered the U. S. Army at New Orleans, La., later being stationed at Seymour Johnson Field, N. C., Hills Field, Utah, Dagget Field, Calif., Fort Myers, Fla., Pyote, Texas, and Albuquerque, N. M., where he served as ground mechanic and gunner. Departing Dec. 4, 1943, for the EAMETO, he served at Sicily, Tunisia, North Africa and Rome as mechanic. He participated in the Air Offensive over Europe, campaigns in Naples-Foggia, Normandy, France, Rhineland and the Po Valley and was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, Unit Citation, and the EAMETO Medal. Frank is the husband of Susie Ann Mancuso and father of Elizabeth Mary Ragusa. He was discharged Sept. 16, 1945.





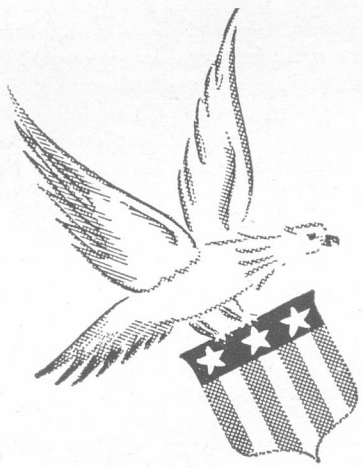


③ Lawrence Francis Ragusa

Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Philip and Elizabeth Ragusa of Plaquemine, La., was born April 23, 1921. He attended the Plaquemine Elementary and High Schools. On March 9, 1945, he entered the U. S. Army at New Orleans, La. He was later stationed at Camp Robinson, Arkansas and Fort Ord, Calif. Departing Aug. 19, 1945, for the Philippine Islands, he served at Leyte, Cebu and Manila as a guard and a motion picture projectionist. Lawrence was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon, two Overseas Service Bars, and the Victory Ribbon. He received his honorable discharge Dec. 11, 1946, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.





Ivy E. Brown

U. S. Army Air Force

Son of Mr. William A. Brown and Mrs. Emily L. Brown of White Castle, La. He was born April 1, 1908, and was employed as a carpenter before entering the armed forces. He entered the Air Force Sept. 10, 1942, and was stationed at Camp Robinson, Ark., later being sent to Army Air Base, Greenville, S. C., and Daniel Field, Augusta, Ga. Ivy Brown was killed May 30, 1943, at Greenville, S. C.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Pershing J. Thompson

② Floyd William Billings

③ Tony Spragio

④ John Andrew Spragio

⑤ Ulysses Joseph Achee

⑥ Nolan Luke Olivier

⑦ Alton Joseph Achee

⑧ Louis Lester Achee

⑨ Adolphe E. Amedee

⑩ Dudley B. Amedee

⑪ Jean D. Amedee, Jr.

⑫ Adolph P. Amedee

⑬ Rodney P. Marionneaux

⑭ Eustace A. Marionneaux

⑮ Harold L. Marionneaux

⑯ Manuel Joseph Gilchrist

⑰ Harry Lee Michel

⑱ Laurie J. Michel

⑲ Dalton Clifford Michel

⑳ John Wesley Collins, Jr.





① PERSHING J. THOMPSON, PFC, Engineers, Army

Husband of Jo Thompson, 413 Meriam street, in Plaquemine, and father of Darlyn Faye and Patricia Margaret Thompson. He was born July 1, 1918, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel A. Thompson, and attended Plaquemine High School and Mount Rainier Ordnance School. He was a combination welder in construction work prior to his induction into the Corps of Engineers (Army) on May 19, 1944, at Camp Beauregard. He received engineer training at Camp Abbot, Ore., and Fort Lewis, Wash., then went to Camp Maxey, Texas, for advanced infantry training, and to Camp Shelby, Miss., for reassignment. He served with the Eighth Division at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., after returning from overseas. He embarked for LeHavre, France, in February, 1945, fighting through Rheims, Paris, Metz, Nancy, Luxembourg, the Rhine Crossing at Bopport, Germany, and through Central Germany to Zwickau, Limbach and Chemnitz, serving with the Army of Occupation on the Czech border. He served overseas with the 301st Engineer (Combat) Battalion, 76th Infantry Division, and has Campaign Stars for the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe.

② FLOYD WILLIAM BILLINGS, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. James William Billings of Plaquemine, La. He was born May 14, 1908 and attended St. John's High School. Floyd entered the armed forces July 15, 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)

③ TONY SPRAGIO, Hospital Aide 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Spragio, 1304 Meriam Street, Plaquemine, La. He was born Sept. 19, 1924, and attended St. John's High School. He was inducted June 17, 1943, at Lafayette, and received his Hospital Corps training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., and the Naval Hospital, Balboa Park. He served as Dental Technician at the U. S. Naval Receiving Base, Shoemaker, Calif., the U. S. Marine Corps Base, and Roosevelt Base, Terminal Island, Calif. He is still on active duty in the service.

④ JOHN ANDREW SPRAGIO, U. S. Navy

Son of Anthony and Jane Crochet Spragio, Plaquemine, La. He was born Aug. 29, 1926, and attended St. John's School. He was inducted March 14, 1944, at New Orleans, and received his training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, and the Receiving Station, Terminal Island, Calif., after which he was assigned to the USS Cogswell. On May 2, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater where he participated in seven major battles. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with one Silver and two Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with two Bronze Stars, and the American Theater of Operations Medal. At the present time he is on duty in Japan.

⑤ ULYSSES JOSEPH ACHEE, Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Achee, 103 Division street, Plaquemine. He was born Dec. 28, 1925, and attended Plaquemine High School. He was with Vandel's, Inc., prior to entering the Army of the United States April 20, 1944, at Camp Beauregard. From Camp Shelby, Miss. (Basic Infantry), where he served as a truck and jeep operator, he went to Camp Kilmer, N. J., where he embarked for Bristol, England, on Oct. 30, 1944. In England he received further training and attended Mine Detector School. He served in France and Luxembourg clearing the enemy's deadly mine fields and was in combat in Germany as squad leader. In Austria he constructed bridges with the Corps of Engineers, Corporal Achee was in action in the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the European Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon and World War II Victory Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge on June 4, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑥ NOLAN LUKE OLIVIER, Sergeant, Air Forces

Husband of Mrs. Hazel A. Olivier, 103 Division street, Plaquemine, and father of Nolan Luke Olivier, Jr. He was born Oct. 18, 1918, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Olivier of White Castle. He was an automotive mechanic and repairman prior to entering the Army Air Forces on May 14, 1941 at Camp Livingston. He went from Camp Blanding, Fla., and Fort Benning, Ga., to Lawson Field on duty with the Quartermaster Corps. He worked on detached service for a year with the Air Depot, then went to Sedalia Army Air Base where he first operated the service station and later was in charge of the Motor Pool. After two years' service there he went overseas on Nov. 17, 1944, serving in New Guinea as dispatcher for eight months, then going to Guam in the Mariana Islands as cargo checker with the Air Transport Command, serving first with the Southwest Pacific Wing ATC, then with the Central Pacific Wing. He has the American Defense Service and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbons with one Bronze Campaign Star for Guam.

⑦ ALTON JOSEPH ACHEE, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Mrs. Dorothy Murray Achee, 118 Melton street, Texarkana, Texas, and father of Linda Arlene Achee. He was born Sept. 21, 1920, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Achee, 103 Division street, Plaquemine. He attended Plaquemine High School and was a meat cutter prior to entering the Army of the United States at Lafayette on Oct. 15, 1942. From Camp Barkeley, Texas, where he received basic training, he was assigned to Camp Swift, Texas, as a cook, baker and meat cutter. He went to New Guinea on November 24, 1943, and served there as first cook. Sergeant Achee returned to the States and was granted his honorable discharge at Auburn General Hospital, McKinney, Texas, on Nov. 4, 1945, after more than three years of faithful and unselfish service to his country.

⑧ LOUIS LESTER ACHEE, Sergeant, Marines

Husband of Mrs. Lucille Allain Achee, 3210 Palmyra street, New Orleans, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lester Achee, 103 Division street, Plaquemine. He attended Plaquemine High School and was a public accountant prior to entering the United States Marine Corps on May 18, 1942, at New Orleans. From the United States Marine Corps Base, San Diego (recruit training), he went to Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., Naval Radio School. He served at Camp Elliott, Calif., as message center chief and radio operator. On Feb. 23, 1943, he embarked for Auckland, New Zealand, where he was message center chief, and served in the same capacity on Guadalcanal and Bougainville, British Solomon Islands, and on Guam in the Mariana Islands, and Iwo Jima, Volcanic Islands. He was in combat at Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima. Returning to the States he was granted his honorable discharge at the Marine Barracks, Naval Ammunition Depot, New Orleans, on Oct. 12, 1945.

⑨ ADOLPHE E. AMEDEE, Sergeant, U. S. Army

He was born June 17, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jean D. Amedee of Rosedale, La. He attended the Shady Grove School and was a bread salesman prior to entering the armed forces. Adolphe is the husband of Mrs. Adolphe E. Amedee and father of Barbara Jean Amedee of Baton Rouge, La. He entered the U. S. Army on Oct. 1, 1940.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑩ DUDLEY B. AMEDEE, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jean D. Amedee, Sr., of Rosedale, La. He was born June 14, 1921, and is a graduate of the Shady Grove High School. Dudley is the husband of Inez B. Amedee and father of Beverly Ann and Ronald Joseph Amedee. He entered the U. S. Army Dec. 22, 1941.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑪ JEAN D. AMEDEE, JR., U. S. Army

He was born Nov. 5, 1925, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jean D. Amedee, Sr., of Rosedale, La. Upon completion of his education at the Shady Grove High School, he entered the armed forces. Jean entered the U. S. Army Feb. 2, 1944.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑫ ADOLPH P. AMEDEE, T/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jean D. Amedee, Sr., of Rosedale, La. He was born Feb. 11, 1917, and is a graduate of the Shady Grove High School. Before entering the armed forces, he was doing radio repair work. Adolph is the husband of Helen B. Amedee of Rosedale. He entered the U. S. Army March 15, 1941.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑬ RODNEY P. MARIONNEAUX, M/Sgt., U. S. Army Air Force

Husband of Susan Hickman Marionneaux, Plaquemine, La. He was born Nov. 8, 1911, attended Port Allen High School, and was a sheet metal shop foreman prior to his induction March 17, 1942. He received his basic training at Sheppard Field, then served as sheet metal section chief at Kelly Field and Stinson Field. On Nov. 10, 1943, he embarked for India, and served at Barrackpore, India, as aircraft engineering technician. Sergeant Marionneaux has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Dec. 30, 1945, at Camp Shelby. He is the son of Charles J. and Cecilia C. Marionneaux, Plaquemine, La.

⑭ EUSTACE A. MARIONNEAUX, Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

Son of Charles J. and Cecelia Clement Marionneaux, Plaquemine, La. He was born September 14, 1920, attended Plaquemine High School, and was a carpenter prior to his induction Sept. 10, 1942. He received his training at Keesler Field, Chanute Field, and Jefferson Barracks, and embarked for the European Theater March 13, 1944. He served in England, France, Belgium and Germany, participating in the Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. He has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, the Meritorious Unit Award, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Dec. 8, 1945.

⑮ HAROLD L. MARIONNEAUX, Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

Son of Charles J. and Cecelia Clement Marionneaux, Plaquemine, La. He was born Jan. 15, 1915, attended Colfax High School and was a carpenter prior to his induction April 13, 1942. He received his training at Sheppard Field, Key Field and Camp Kilmer, embarking for the European Theater April 29, 1943. He served in North Africa, Sicily, Corsica, France and Germany, participating in the Sicilian, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Apennines, Southern France, Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns. He has the Distinguished Unit Badge with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged Oct. 24, 1945.

⑯ MANUEL JOSEPH GILCHRIST, PFC, Armor, FA, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Murlin Gilchrist, 409 Federal street, Plaquemine. He was born Nov. 12, 1919, and entered military service July 7, 1942, and re-enlisted July 15, 1946. Inducted into the Army of the United States at New Orleans on July 7, 1942, he served at Camp Carson, Colo., at Shreveport, at Camp Roberts, Calif., and at Fort Bragg, N. C. On July 7, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater where he served in England, Belgium, Holland and Germany with the Seventh Armored Division, Battery C, 489th Field Artillery Battalion. He was in combat in the Ardennes (the Battle of the Bulge), the Rhineland and Central Germany, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on January 12, 1946. On his reenlistment he was assigned to duty at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

⑰ HARRY LEE MICHEL, Fireman 1/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Michel, Route 1, Plaquemine. He was born Sept. 8, 1919. Harry was employed by McWilliams Dredging Company prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on June 29, 1944, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego he went to Basic Engineering School, USNTC, Gulfport, Miss., and Operational Firemen's School at Philadelphia Navy Yard, Pa. He also received Amphibious Training at Camp Bradford, Va., and was stationed at the Naval Barracks, Carnegie Institute of Technology. On March 15, 1945, he boarded LST 1048 at Mobile, Ala., and went to the Panama Canal, Pearl Harbor, Eniwetok, Guam, Saipan, Manila in the Philippines, Sasebo in Japan, Lingayen Gulf on Leyte, P. I., Matsuyama and Kure Naval Base, Japan. He returned to the States from Guam on the USS Hornet. He has the American and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbons and was discharged at New Orleans Feb. 4, 1946.

⑱ LAURIE J. MICHEL, Tec/4, Infantry, AUS

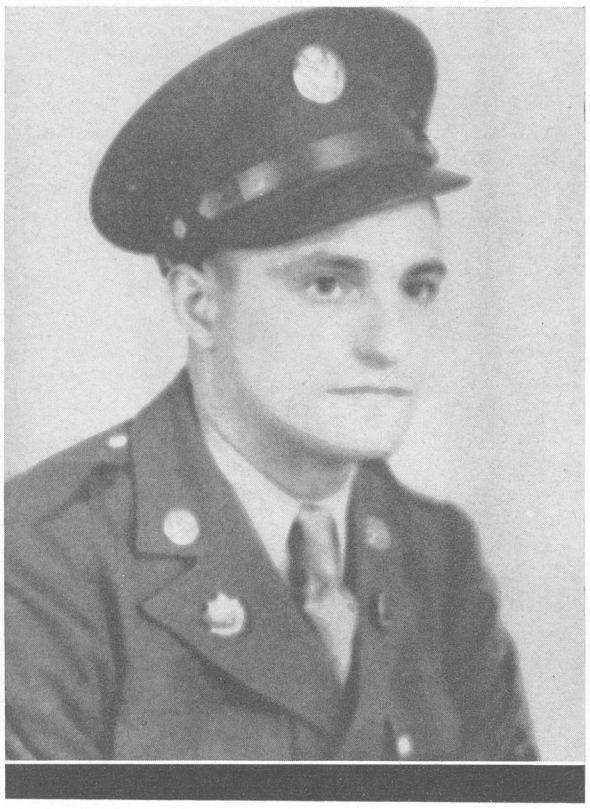
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph J. Michel, Route 1, Plaquemine. He was born Aug. 6, 1909, and attended Plaquemine High School and Port Arthur (Texas) College, where he studied telegraphy. He was employed by McWilliams Dredging Company of Chicago as chef prior to entering the Army of the United States in the Infantry on March 2, 1942, at Camp Claiborne. Sergeant Michel served at Camp Claiborne with the 327th Infantry Regiment and later in the glider group of that unit. He was killed in an automobile accident while assigned to duty with the Army of the United States at Camp Claiborne on Sept. 18, 1942, after almost six months of unselfish service.

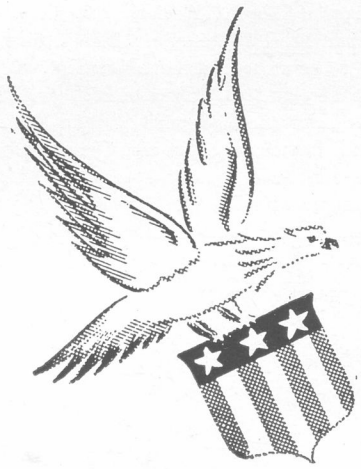
⑲ DALTON CLIFFORD MICHEL, Seaman 2/C, USNR

Husband of Cecile Simoneaux Michel of Charenton and son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Michel of Plaquemine. He was born Jan. 24, 1908, and attended Plaquemine High School and Baton Rouge Business College. He with Hamill-Smith Oil Producers prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve on Aug. 18, 1943, at Lafayette. From the Naval Receiving Station, Lafayette, he went to the United States Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., and the U. S. Naval Training Station at Farragut, Idaho. He received signalman training and served at Farragut, Idaho, where he was granted his honorable discharge on Nov. 27, 1943.

⑳ JOHN WESLEY COLLINS, JR., Seaman 1/C, USNR

Husband of Lorena Mary Gilchrist Collins, and son of John Wesley Collins of Plaquemine. He was born Nov. 3, 1923, and attended Poydras High School, New Roads. He was a derrickman in oil fields prior to his induction into the U. S. Naval Reserve on May 18, 1944, at New Orleans. Seaman First Class Collins served at the Recruit Training Center and the U. S. Naval Training and Distribution Center, Williamsburg, Va., at the U. S. Navy Yard at Philadelphia, Pa., at Amphibious Training Base, Fort Pierce, Fla., at the Amphibious Training Base at Solomons, Md. He was assigned to duty with USS LCI (L) 946, at the Practice and Training Center, Navy Repair Base, New Orleans, at the U. S. Naval Marine Corps Base at Panama City, Fla., and at the Receiving Depot, Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Wash. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and was discharged at New Orleans on Feb. 21, 1946.





Dominick Campesi

Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Campesi of White Castle, La., and husband of Mamie Campesi, he was born March 2, 1915. Dominick attended White Castle High School. Entering the service March 2, 1942, he was assigned to Fort Bragg, N. C., for training, later being sent to the Headquarters Battery, 320th Glider Field, Artillery Battalion 82nd. He departed April 28, 1943, for overseas where he participated in the bitter fighting of Sicily, Italy, Normandy and Rhineland Campaigns. He served in the Airborne invasion of Normandy and Holland. Corporal Campesi was captured during the invasion of Holland and was held prisoner for five months as the result of a crash landing in a glider. He was awarded the Presidential Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Gliderman Badge and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Oct. 6, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Elaine T. Carville

② Charles Lester Carville

③ John M. Carville

④ Jules A. Carville, Jr.

⑤ Paul D. Kleinpeter, Sr.

⑥ Mervin B. Gourgues

⑦ Huey P. Kleinpeter

⑧ Edward P. Achee

⑨ Ervin J. Monson

⑩ Ralph Joseph Orillion

⑪ Wilton B. Monson

⑫ Ida Maye Beraud, R. N.

⑬ Paul A. Monson

⑭ Charles Henry Monson

⑮ Alphonse D. Romero

⑯ Roland R. Haydel

⑰ Francis Lowell Pourciau

⑱ Wilbert J. Cambre

⑲ Franklin A. O'Neil, Jr.

⑳ Richard Henry Conrad, Jr.





① ELAINE T. CARVILLE, First Lt., USMCWR

Daughter of Mrs. Jules A. Carville of Plaquemine, La., she was born Jan. 23, 1923, and attended Plaquemine High School. She is a graduate of Northwestern State College at Natchitoches, La., and taught Health and Physical Education prior to her enlistment. She entered the service July 27, 1943, at New Orleans, La., and received training at Camp LeJeune, N. C. Lieutenant Carville was stationed at Cherry Point, N. C. She was discharged Jan. 26, 1946, at Cherry Point, N. C.

② CHARLES LESTER CARVILLE, Captain, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Jules A. Carville of Plaquemine, La., he was born Oct. 28, 1920, and attended Plaquemine High School and LSU. Entering the service June 27, 1942, he was assigned to Fort Bragg, N. C., as company officer, and Fort Dix, N. J. He was then sent to Fort Belvoir, Va., as Engineer Instructor. Departing Sept. 26, 1942, for the European Theater, Captain Carville served as company officer in Ireland, Scotland and North Africa. He participated in the bitter fighting of the Invasion of North Africa, Kasserine Pass and El Guettar. Captain Carville was wounded in the Battle of El Guettar and received the Purple Heart in April, 1943, at Oran, North Africa. After more than three years of faithful service to his country he was discharged Oct. 11, 1945.

③ JOHN M. CARVILLE, Lieutenant, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Jules A. Carville of Plaquemine, La., he was born Jan. 15, 1909. He is the husband of June Kirkland Carville. Carville attended St. John's Parochial School, St. Vincent's Academy and Louisiana State University. Entering the service March 15, 1944, he was assigned to the Naval Training School at Tucson, Ariz., later being sent to San Diego, Calif. He departed Aug. 16, 1944, for the Southwest Pacific and served as gunnery officer aboard the SS Lurline, USAT, Colorado and SS Jerry S. Foley. Lieutenant Carville is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific and Philippine Liberation Ribbons. He was discharged Jan. 15, 1946.

④ JULES A. CARVILLE, JR., Lt. Col., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jules A. Carville of Plaquemine, La., he was born March 6, 1911. He is the husband of Doris Lasselgne Carville of Norco, La. Carville attended Catholic High School and LSU. Entering the service June 28, 1941, he was assigned to Fort Monmouth, N. J., as school and company commander. He was also stationed at Grenier Field, Manchester, N. H., as post engineer. Col. Carville departed March 14, 1942, for Ascension Island and was assigned to the 38th Engineer Combat Regiment for specialized work. He was then sent to the Belgian Congo, Gold Coast and Dakar, serving in the capacity of a company commander. Col. Carville received a Presidential Unit Citation. He was discharged Nov. 3, 1945.

⑤ PAUL D. KLEINPETER, SR., Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Kleinpeter, New Orleans, La., and husband of Mrs. Eva G. Kleinpeter, Plaquemine, La., was born July 19, 1921. After attending Plaquemine High School, he was employed as a river pilot. On Nov. 28, 1944, he was inducted at New Orleans, La., and assigned to the Transportation Corps. Sergeant Kleinpeter embarked for overseas on June 8, 1945, and at Ascension Island was assigned the operation of Army boats and in charge of pier and maintenance and operation of vessels in harbor, in charge of movement of all supply and troops by water transportation. He holds the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Medal and Victory Medal. On May 9, 1946, he received his discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑥ MERVIN B. GOURGUES, PFC, U. S. Army

PFC Gourgues was born Feb. 9, 1913, and attended schools in Plaquemine, La., and later farmed until he was inducted into the Army on Aug. 17, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, La. His first assignment was San Antonio, Texas, where he served as Military Police, later being sent to Huntsville, Texas, and then to Camp Robinson, Ark. His last assignment was at Camp Aberdeen, Md., Ordnance School. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and after serving his country willingly and unselfishly, he received his discharge on Oct. 26, 1945, at Fort George G. Meade, Md. PFC Gourgues is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gourgues and husband of Mrs. Leona Gourgues, Plaquemine, La.

⑦ HUEY P. KLEINPETER, S 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul B. Kleinpeter of New Orleans, La. He was born Jan. 15, 1924, and is a graduate of the Plaquemine (La.) High School. He also attended Business College at Baton Rouge, and was later connected with the Kansas City Bridge Company. Huey entered the armed forces in June, 1943.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑧ EDWARD P. ACHEE, Sergeant, Air Forces

He was born Dec. 20, 1923, and attended Plaquemine High School. He operated a drill press for Nadler's Machine Shop, Plaquemine, prior to entering the AAF on Oct. 31, 1942. He attended AAF Technical Training Schools at Lake Charles Army Air Base, at Keesler Field, Miss., at Willow Run, Ypsilanti, Mich., at Laredo Army Air Base, Laredo, Texas, and at Salt Lake City, Utah, where he was reassigned to Davis-Monthan Field in Tucson, Ariz., as an aircraft mechanic. He also served at Westover Field, Mass., as assistant crew chief. On Jan. 13, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, going to Cerignolia, Italy, and to Foggia Airdrome, Italy, as crew chief. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Rome-Arno, Northern France, Southern France, the Rhineland, the Air Combat over the Balkans, Normandy, the North Apennines, the Po Valley, and Central Europe. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with nine Bronze Campaign Stars, and the Presidential Unit Citation.

⑨ ERVIN J. MONSON, Private, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin B. Monson and husband of Eva Mae Monson of Plaquemine, La., he was born Nov. 17, 1916. Monson attended Plaquemine Grammar and High Schools. Entering the armed forces March 19, 1945, at New Orleans, La., he was assigned to Fort Knox, Ky., later being sent to Fort Ord, California. He was honorably discharged Nov. 27, 1945. He is the father of Marlene Ann, Jacqueline Ann and Lucille Raye Monson.

⑩ RALPH JOSEPH ORILLION, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Alton Orillion and husband of Mrs. Irene Margaret Monson Orillion, was born Jan. 24, 1915. They reside in Plaquemine where PFC Orillion attended school and later was employed as a chauffeur. He was inducted at Camp Livingston, La., on March 5, 1941, and assigned to the Infantry. After completing his training in the States, he sailed for overseas on Oct. 15, 1942, and saw action in the campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. PFC Orillion holds the American Defense Service Medal, American Theater of Operations Medal, European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Indian Arrowhead and World War II Victory Medal. After more than four years of loyal service to his country, he was discharged on Dec. 17, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑪ WILTON B. MONSON, Yeoman 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin B. Monson of Plaquemine, La., he was born Aug. 4, 1926, and attended Plaquemine Grammar and High Schools. Entering the U. S. Navy Aug. 2, 1944, at New Orleans, La., Wilton was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for training, later being sent to Landing Craft School. He departed Jan. 6, 1945, for the South Pacific aboard the USS Burleigh, doing personnel work.

He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with one Star and the Victory Ribbon. After faithfully serving his country for two years he was discharged June 17, 1946.

⑫ IDA MAYE BERAUD, RN, First Lt., ANC.

Daughter of Mrs. Dezzie J. Beraud and J. Henry Beraud, Plaquemine. She was born Oct. 4, 1921, and attended Crescent School, Plaquemine High School, and Shreveport Charity School of Nursing. Lieutenant Beraud entered the Army Nurse Corps Jan. 27, 1944, at Davis-Monthan Field, Tucson, Ariz. She went to Dalhart Army Air Base, Texas, and Camp Chaffee, Ark., as general duty nurse, and to Harmon General Hospital for overseas assignment. From Camp Myles Standish, Mass., and Camp Kilmer, N. J., she embarked Nov. 10, 1944, for the European Theater. She served in the United Kingdom with the 173rd General Hospital and in the ETO with the 173rd General Hospital, the 58th Field Hospital, and the 98th General Hospital. She also served with the 28th Field Hospital in the European Theater. She was in combat in the Campaign of the Rhineland. She was honorably discharged at Fort Sam Houston on Feb. 22, 1946.

⑬ PAUL A. MONSON, PFC, Air Forces

Husband of Mrs. Juanita D. Monson and son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Monson, Plaquemine. He was born Jan. 26, 1924, entering the AAF on Oct. 31, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. Private First Class Monson served at Lake Charles Army Air Field, Aloe Army Air Field in Victoria, Texas, Harlingen Army Air Field, Harlingen, Texas, Fort Worth Army Air Base, Texas, and AAF Army Technical Training Schools in Santa Monica (Engineer and Mechanic School). He also attended Lockheed Army Air School in California (engineering and mechanics), and was assigned to Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill. He served also as a physical training instructor. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and World War II Victory Medal, and was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Feb. 23, 1946.

⑭ CHARLES HENRY MONSON, Corporal, U. S. Army

Entering the Army March 6, 1941, he served at Camp Blanding, Fla., with the Transportation Corps and took part in the Louisiana Maneuvers. Assigned to Fort Fisher, N. C., he continued to transport troops, and served in the same capacity at Camp Bowie, Texas, Camp Rucker, Ala., and New Orleans. On Aug. 17, 1942, he went to Canada where he took part in the construction of the Alcan Highway, and on April 17, 1944, left for England where he transported personnel and supplies, serving in the same capacity in France, Belgium and Germany. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the American Defense Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Ribbon and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars.

⑮ ALPHONSE D. ROMERO, Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. Martin Romero of Plaquemine, La., was born Jan. 11, 1925. He attended schools in Plaquemine and later was inducted into the Army at Camp Beauregard on April 20, 1944. After receiving his basic training he embarked for France on Oct. 12, 1944, and had duty assignments in France, Germany, Italy and Belgium. Corporal Romero saw action in Southern France and Central Germany and is the holder of two Battle Stars and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged on June 12, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

⑯ ROLAND R. HAYDEL, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alberic Haydel and husband of Mrs. Shirley Mary Romero Haydel, Plaquemine, La., was born Feb. 14, 1920. After attending White Castle High School, he worked as a pressman before being inducted on April 16, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, La. After completing his training he sailed for overseas duty and saw action in the campaign in Italy and the Battles of Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno and Apennines. PFC Haydel holds the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Ribbon, Campaign Ribbon and three Battle Stars. He received his discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Nov. 10, 1945.

⑰ FRANCIS LOWELL POURCIAU, First Lt., Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Pourciau of Grosse Tete. He attended Shady Grove High School and was in oil field work prior to his induction into the AAF Oct. 16, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He trained at Keesler Field, Miss., as an airplane mechanic and at Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill., as propeller specialist, going to Hunter Field, Ga., as an aircraft mechanic. He received cadet basic at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and cadet training at Houghton, Mich., Santa Ana, Calif., Oxnard, Calif., and Gardner Field, Calif., going to Luke Field, Ariz., for advanced flight training. After glider training at Maxton, N. C., he embarked from Camp Kilmer for Stone, England, on Nov. 3, 1944. He served with the Troop Carrier Command, Ninth Air Force, at Cottesmoore, England, and Abbeville, France, going to Natal, Brazil, as a pilot with the Air Transport Command. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Rhineland, Central Europe and the Ardennes and has the Air Medal, European Theater Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon and Victory Medal.

⑱ WILBERT J. CAMBRE, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Husband of Mrs. Lillian B. Cambre of Carville and son of Mrs. Jeanne Scott. He was born Aug. 25, 1915, and attended St. Gabriel High School. He was assistant pharmacist, U. S. Marine Hospital, Carville, and entered service with the Medical Corps June 16, 1942. He served with an infantry division at Camp McCain, Miss., Camp Rucker, Ala., Fort Jackson, S. C., Camp Kilmer, N. J., Billings General Hospital, Fort Benning, Ga., and Jefferson Barracks, Mo. He embarked for the European Theater Nov. 4, 1944, and served in England, France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia and Germany. He fought in the Battle of the Belgian Bulge in the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has three Bronze Campaign Stars on the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon. He also has the Good Conduct Medal. Sergeant Cambre was discharged Nov. 6, 1945, at Jefferson Barracks, Mo.

⑲ FRANKLIN A. O'NEIL, JR., U. S. Maritime Service

Husband of Mrs. Verna May K. O'Neil and son of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin A. O'Neil of Plaquemine. He was born Dec. 19, 1919, and is a graduate of St. John High School, Plaquemine. Entering the U. S. Maritime Service at New Orleans on Aug. 29, 1943, he was sent to the U. S. Maritime Service Training Station at St. Petersburg, Fla. He served on sea duty in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and Colombia. He served in South America and Central America, then went to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater where he served in New Guinea, the Philippine Islands, the Admiralty Islands, France and Belgium. He served with the Maritime Service in all theaters of war.

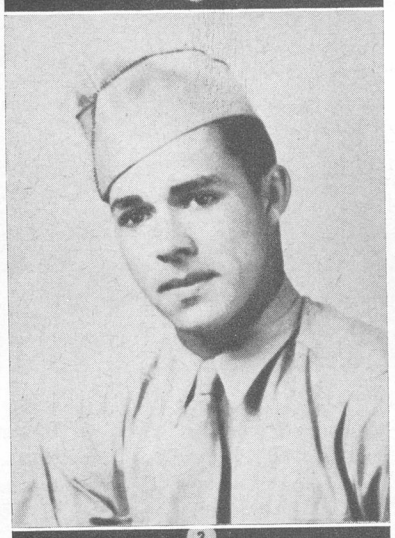
⑳ RICHARD HENRY CONRAD, JR., PFC, Army

Son of Richard Henry and Mary Dunham Conrad of Sunshine. He attended Bayou Current School and was a carpenter by occupation prior to entering the Army on Jan. 7, 1942, at Baton Rouge. He went from Camp Beauregard to Camp Wheeler, Ga., and Indiantown Gap, Pa., and embarked from San Francisco on May 28, 1942, with the 145th Infantry Regiment, 37th Division, going first to New Zealand. He served in the Fiji Islands, Guadalcanal, New Georgia, Bougainville, Lae, New Guinea, Luzon, Manus Island, Lingayen Gulf on Leyte, and the City of Manila. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Bougainville, the Philippine Islands (Manila, Luzon, Leyte), serving under Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler. He was wounded in the fighting at Manila Feb. 8, 1945, and has the Purple Heart. He was discharged Oct. 13, 1945, at Fort Sam Houston.

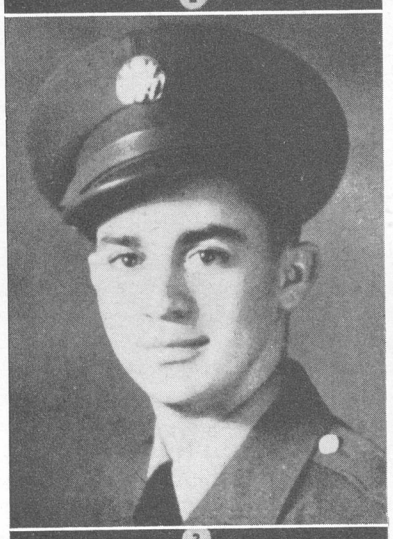
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



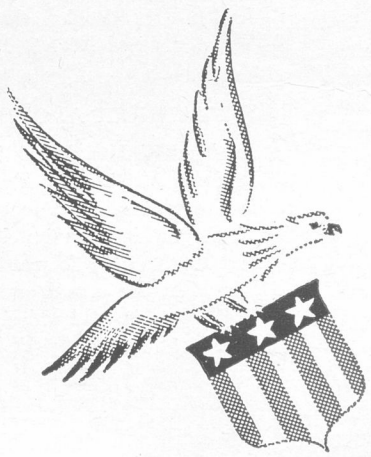
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① John Louis Gaudet

Corporal, FA, AUS

Son of Mrs. Libby Gaudet, 310 Liberty Street, Plaquemine. He was born Sept. 20, 1916, and attended Crescent School. He was with McWilliams Dredging Company prior to his induction into the Army of the United States July 13, 1940, at Fort Barrancas, Fla. He served with the Field Artillery at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, Fort Bliss, Texas, and Camp Gruber, Okla. He went to the Panama Canal Zone Nov. 29, 1940, with the 82nd Anti-Aircraft Artillery (AW) Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 72nd AAA (AW) Battalion, and the 901st AAA (AW) Battalion. Returning to the States, Corporal Gaudet was granted his honorable discharge on June 1, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

② Ulysses Joseph Gaudet

Tec/4, Medical Department, AUS

Son of Mrs. Libby Gaudet, 310 Liberty Street, Plaquemine. He was born Dec. 29, 1925, and attended Plaquemine High School. He worked as an ambulance driver and embalmer prior to entering the Army in the Medical Department on April 20, 1944, at Camp Beauregard. After basic medical training at Camp Barkeley, Texas, he went to Medical Technician School at Lawson General Hospital and Kennedy General Hospital. From Indiantown Gap, Pa., he went to Camp Patrick Henry, Va., port of embarkation. On Feb. 18, 1945, he went to Italy and served with the 2686th PW Administrative Company, doing administrative work. He was assigned to duty with the 33rd General Hospital and 300th General Hospital, and served as ward master in charge of a medical ward with the 15th Field Hospital in Italy, going to the Seventh Replacement Depot for return to the States. He also served at Percy Jones General Hospital in the States. Sergeant Gaudet was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby May 27, 1946.

③ Allen J. Gaudet

Tec/Sgt., AAF

Son of Mrs. Libby Gaudet, 310 Liberty Street, Plaquemine. He was born Aug. 8, 1922, and attended Crescent School and Plaquemine High School, working as a clerk with A. Wilbert and Sons, Plaquemine, prior to his induction Nov. 18, 1942, in the Army Air Forces at Camp Beauregard. He was a student in the Aircraft Mechanics School, Sheppard Field, Texas, and also at Amarillo Army Air Base, Texas. He then went to Pyote Army Air Field, Texas., for Gunnery School, serving also at Dalhart AAF, Dalhart, Texas, and Las Vegas AAF, Las Vegas, Nev., as a gunnery student, and at Scott Field, Ill. He went to the European Theater in November, 1943, as Aerial Engineer and Turret Gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress. He took part in bombing missions over France and Germany. Technical Sergeant Gaudet was killed in action against the enemy near Villacoublay, France. This gallant airman was awarded the Air Medal and the Purple Heart, presented posthumously to his mother, Mrs. Libby Gaudet, at Plaquemine, on April 13, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Anthony Joseph Doiron

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Rita Marjorie Doiron, 207 Plaquemine Street, Plaquemine, and father of Theresa Anne Doiron. He was born Feb. 8, 1919, and is the son of Mrs. Eva Doiron of Plaquemine. He attended Plaquemine High School and Baton Rouge Business College. Entering the Army of the United States on June 26, 1941, at Camp Livingston, he went to Camp Shelby as a basic trainee and served as a clerk at Fort Knox, Ky., Camp Perry, Ohio, Camp Polk, Camp Barkeley, Texas, Camp Ibis, Calif., Camp Cooke, Calif., and Camp Kilmer, N. J. On Sept. 29, 1944, he embarked for the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations where he served as a supply clerk in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia. He was in combat in the Ardennes, the Campaign of the Rhineland and the Campaign of Central Europe. Returning to the States, Sergeant Doiron was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on October 21, 1945.



② Ernest Joseph Blanchard

Staff Sergeant, Air Forces

Husband of Louise Theresa D'Albor Blanchard, 714 Main Street, Plaquemine, and father of Ernest Joseph Blanchard, Jr. He is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Nemour Blanchard of Plaquemine and attended Plaquemine High School. He worked as an automotive mechanic prior to his enlistment in the Army Air Forces July 7, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. Staff Sergeant Blanchard received basic training at St. Petersburg, Fla., and Atlantic City, N. J., and transferred to Richmond Army Air Base, Richmond, Va., assigned to duty as motor sergeant. He served there with the 323rd Fighter Squadron for 15 months, then transferred to the Ordnance Repair Shop where he was appointed foreman over Second and Third Echelon work. After 18 months he went to Marianna Army Air Base, Marianna, Fla., where he served in the same capacity. Going to Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Ala., he served there until he was granted his honorable discharge on Oct. 24, 1945.





③ George C. Peltier

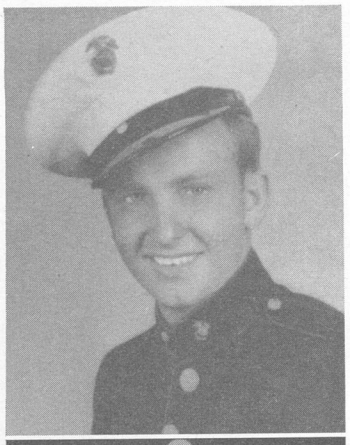
Tec/5, U. S. Army

Husband of Myrle E. Hoffmann Peltier and father of Larry G. Peltier, Joan Ann Peltier, and Betty Sue Peltier. He was born May 10, 1908, and attended St. Gabriel High School. He was in construction work and was a pharmacy clerk prior to entering the Army of the United States in the Medical Corps on March 24, 1944, at Camp Beauregard. He received training at Camp Ellis, Ill., and embarked Oct. 31, 1944, for Liverpool, England, for overseas duty in the European Theater of Operations. He was stationed at Olton Park, England, and at Etratat, St. Quentin, Minecourt and Verdun in France with the Medical Corps, serving as clerk in the personnel office and interpreter. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Jan. 11, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Albert H. Alford

S/Sgt., Air Forces

Husband of Arrie Belle A. Alford, Baton Rouge. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius D. Alford of Route 6, Franklinton, and attended Franklinton High School and LSU. After studying stenographic work and bookkeeping, he was with Guaranty Income Life Insurance Company, Baton Rouge, as secretary and reinsurance supervisor until his induction into the Army Air Forces Feb. 15, 1943. He served at Keesler Field, Miss., Salt Lake City Army Air Base, Utah, Moses Lake AAB, Wash., Camp Rapid AAB, Rapid City, S. D., Ephrata AAB, Wash., and Wendover AAB, Utah, assigned to duty as combat intelligence non-commissioned officer. From Jan. 18, 1944, to June 7, 1945, he served in the European Theater. For 17 months he was squadron section head, Combat Intelligence, at a heavy bombardment base, Glatton, England, and served in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe and the Air Offensive over Europe, having the European Theater Ribbon with six Bronze Campaign Stars and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged Oct. 18, 1945, at Davis-Monthan Field, Tucson, Ariz.

② Thomas Ory Allen

Corporal, U. S. Marines

Husband of Martha Jane Allen, Los Angeles, Calif. He was born Nov. 17, 1925, and attended Plaquemine High School. The son of Mr. and Mrs. James Walter Allen, Plaquemine, he entered the USMC Base at New Orleans on Dec. 29, 1942, and went to the Recruit Depot at the Marine Corps Base, San Diego, Calif., for training. At the Marine Air Detachment Naval Training Station, Texas A. & M. College, he attended Radio School prior to going to the Marine Corps Base at Cherry Point, N. C., as a radio operator. He served in the same capacity at the Marine Air Depot, Mirimar, San Diego, and at the Marine Corps Air Station at El Toto, Santa Ana, Calif. Corporal Allen embarked for overseas service Sept. 30, 1943, and returned Nov. 26, 1944, going to the Wallis Archipelago as radio and radar operator, and serving on Roi-Namur, Kwajalein Atoll and others of the Marshall Islands. He was stationed with the joint Army-Navy Communications Center on Kwajalein Island, Kwajalein Atoll, in the Marshalls as radar operator and radio man. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with Bronze Campaign Star, and was honorably discharged Nov. 26, 1945.

③ Lucien J. Burke, Jr.

PFC, Field Artillery, AUS

Son of Mrs. Lodola Burke of Carville. He was born Sept. 22, 1918, and entered the U. S. Army on Nov. 6, 1941, at Camp Shelby, Miss., where he received training. He served as a heavy machine gunner and instructor at Fort Jackson, S. C., and Fort Devens, Mass., prior to embarking Aug. 15, 1942, for Iceland. He served in the European Theater in England, Wales, Scotland, France, Belgium, Germany and Austria, and was in combat in three major campaigns of the European Theater. He has the American Defense Service Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in performance of duty in action, the Croix de Guerre of the French Ministry of War for service while attached to the French Army, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Oct. 20, 1945.

④ Henry Joseph LeBlanc, Jr.

Staff Sergeant, ASF, AUS

Husband of Ethelyn Ann Durand, Plaquemine, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Joseph LeBlanc, Plaquemine. Born Jan. 29, 1925, he attended St. John's School at Spring Hill College, Mobile, Ala. On May 22, 1944, he entered the Army Service Forces (Medical) and served at Camp Barkeley, Texas, Lawson General Hospital, Atlanta, Camp Edwards, Mass., and Camp Beale and Camp Stoneman, Calif. He went to Leyte May 5, 1945, and served with the Fifth Medical Laboratory (Manila), New Bilibid Prison, Batangas, Bauang, Luzon, Philippine Islands, and Sasebo, Fukuoka and Kyushu Island, Japan, and with the 26th Medical Laboratory (Kyoto, Yokohama, and Honshu Island, Japan). He was in combat in the Campaign of the Southern Philippines and the Campaign of Luzon. S/Sgt. LeBlanc has the Army of Occupation (Japan) Ribbon, two Overseas Service Bars, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.





EDWARD J. ANCLIN, JR.

No information.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Gordon H. Joffrion, Jr.

② Silas Young, Jr.

③ Chester E. Keith

④ John H. Pourciau

⑤ Mitchell S. Billings

⑥ James Chauvin, Jr.

⑦ Anthony Vitale

⑧ William Marion Spears

⑨ Jessie Joseph Guidry

⑩ James D. Hobgood, Jr.

⑪ Joseph Julius Bush, Jr.

⑫ Herbert Joseph Gomez

⑬ Michael A. Passantino

⑭ Henry Edward Johnson

⑮ George Booksh Holliday

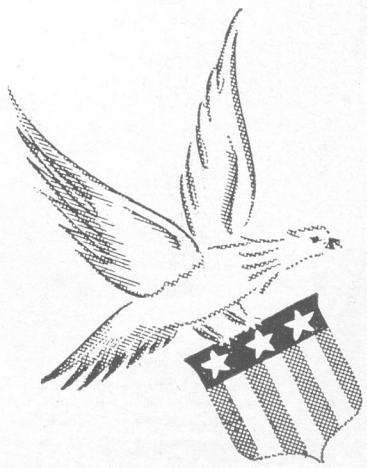
⑯ James Davis Collins

⑰ Paul R. Angelloz

⑱ Thomas Lafayette Lowe, Jr.

⑲ Harold Alphonse Haase, Jr.

⑳ Joseph Preston Klienpeter, Jr.



① **GORDON H. JOFFRION, JR.,**
Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon H. Joffrion, Sr., Maringouin, La. He was born Nov. 14, 1919, attended Shady Grove High School, and was an automobile mechanic prior to entering the service. He was inducted Oct. 3, 1942, at New Orleans, and was assigned to duty as an aircraft mechanic at Roswell Army Airfield, Roswell, N. M., and at Keesler Field, Miss. After serving for three years and four months he was given an honorable discharge Feb. 9, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

② **SILAS YOUNG, JR., Corporal, Air Forces**

Husband of Beatrice Young and son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Oscar Young of Rosedale. He was born Nov. 21, 1923, and attended Shady Grove School. He was an oil field worker prior to induction into the AAF on June 16, 1943, at Lafayette. Corporal Young served at Amarillo Army Air Base, Texas, Camp Lee, Va., Salt Lake City, Utah, Harvard, Neb., Seymour Johnson Field at Goldsboro, N. C. (Overseas Replacement Training Center), and Camp Patrick Henry, Va. He was assigned to duty as a heavy duty truck driver. On June 1, 1944, he embarked for Naples, Italy, and served at Bagnolia, Bari, San Severa, Rimnia and Fano. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Rome-Arno and the North Apennines. He has the Good Conduct Medal, European Theater Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Award, Victory Medal and Truck Driver's Badge. He was honorably discharged Nov. 9, 1945, at Drew Field, Fla.

③ **CHESTER E. KEITH, Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army**

Husband of Bessie A. Keith. He was born Jan. 21, 1921, and attended Plaquemine High School. He was inducted Oct. 29, 1942, and received his training at St. Petersburg, Fla., Kearney Army Air Field, Camp Maxey, Camp Howze and Fort Ord. On May 29, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he served in the Philippine Islands, and in Tokyo, participating in the Southern Philippines Campaign. He was discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, Jan. 15, 1946. He is the son of Mrs. Amelia Keith of Plaquemine, La., and the father of Don Edward Keith.

④ **JOHN H. POURCIAU, Corporal, Air Forces**

Husband of Cleo Belle Chauvin Pourciau and father of Joan Carol, John Larry, Francis Lea and James Chauvin Pourciau. He was born May 15, 1911, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hebrard Pourciau of Grosse Tete, and attended Shady Grove High School, working as a cylinder pressman prior to his induction into the AAF April 10, 1944, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, at Fresno Army Air Base, Calif., Gieger Field in Spokane, Wash., and Lake Army Air Field, Fla. Embarking Jan. 4, 1945, for Leyte in the Philippine Islands, he fought in the Philippines and went to Tokyo as an engine man operating 081. He was in combat in the Campaign of the Southern Philippines and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and Philippine Liberation Ribbons with one Bronze Campaign Star, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged Dec. 23, 1945, at Camp Fannin, Texas.

⑤ **MITCHELL S. BILLINGS, Storekeeper 2/C, USN**

Husband of Sallie E. Billings and father of Mitchell S. Billings, Jr. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur S. Billings of Plaquemine and attended St. John School. He was with the State Police, operated a gas truck, and operated a sodium plant prior to entering the Navy on Nov. 9, 1942, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., he was assigned to Storekeeper's School at Indiana University, Bloomington, for 16 weeks and then transferred to Armed Guard School at Gulfport, Miss. He was assigned to the Naval Unit at Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston, as storekeeper. He served at the Naval Repair Base, New Orleans, in the personnel transportation office and at the Mine Craft School, Little Creek, Va., from which he went to Charleston, S. C., to join the minesweeper USS Cruise. The end of hostilities caused a cancellation of his orders and he returned to the Naval Air Station, New Orleans, where he received his discharge Nov. 10, 1945.

⑥ **JAMES CHAUVIN, JR., Tec/Sgt., Air Forces**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Chauvin of Rosedale. He was born Jan. 12, 1925, and attended Shady Grove High School. He was engaged in logging and oil field work prior to entering the AAF on July 1, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Amarillo Army Air Base, Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, Willow Run Army Air Field, Ypsilanti, Mich., Harlingen Army Air Field, Texas, and Walla Walla Army Air Field, Wash., assigned to duty as an engineer-gunner. Going to the Pacific Theater, he served in the Philippine Islands and the Dutch East Indies as engineer-gunner on B-24 aircraft. Technical Sergeant Chauvin was reported missing in action against the enemy May 30, 1945. Later he was reported killed in action on that date. He had the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Campaign Stars, and the Purple Heart awarded posthumously for the wounds which caused his death in combat.

⑦ **ANTHONY VITALE, Army of the U. S.**

Husband of Margie Couvillion Vitale and father of Betty Jean Ann Vitale and Anthony Vitale, Jr. He was born Oct. 10, 1920, the son of Peter and Katie Calvaruso Vitale of Plaquemine. He attended Plaquemine Elementary and High Schools and was inducted into the Army on Nov. 17, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He trained at the IRTC, Camp Fannin, and Camp Maxey, Texas, and served as transportation clerk at Keesler Field. He was also stationed at San Antonio, Texas, Fort George G. Meade, Md., and Camp Patrick Henry, Va. On Aug. 9, 1944, he embarked for Naples, Italy, and went to Rome for training. He served at Naples in charge of prisoners of war, at Florence and Pisa. He has the European Theater Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal and was discharged Dec. 12, 1945, at Barksdale Field.

⑧ **WILLIAM MARION SPEARS, Tec/5, Medical, AUS**

Husband of Vera Barbara Spears of Plaquemine and father of Ralph David and Frances Glynn Spears. He was born Aug. 6, 1913, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Franklin Spears, and attended Bunkie, Cheneyville and LeCompte High Schools. He was in oilfield work prior to entering the Army Feb. 24, 1943. He served at Camp Beauregard, Harmon General Hospital, Longview, Texas, Camp Barkeley, Texas (178th General Hospital), and Camp Kilmer. On Oct. 22, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater with the 178th General Hospital, going from England to LeHavre Dec. 18, 1944, serving at Rheims and Charleville. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Ardennes and the Rhineland and has the American and European Theater Ribbons (two stars), Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was discharged Dec. 3, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑨ **JESSIE JOSEPH GUIDRY, PFC, U. S. Army**

Husband of Evelyn Hymel. He was born Aug. 28, 1923, and attended Saint Gabriel Schools. He was inducted June 27, 1944, and received his training at Camp Beauregard, Fort Mt. Mellow, Camp Shelby and Camp Swift, after which he embarked for the European Theater. He served as Rifleman in the Infantry in Germany and France, participating in the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. He has the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was discharged Dec. 21, 1945, at Camp Swift, Texas. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie Joseph Guidry of Plaquemine, La.

⑩ **JAMES D. HOBGOOD, JR., S/Sgt., U. S. Army**

Husband of Mrs. James D. Hobgood of Grosse Tete, La. He was born April 4, 1911, and attended Shady Grove High School. He was inducted Aug. 31, 1943, and received his training at Camp Roberts, Fort Ord and Camp Stoneman, all in California. On March 30, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater where he served in Japan and in the Luzon Campaign. He has the Asiatic-Pacific

Operations Medal with one Bronze Star, the Philippine Liberation Medal with one Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was discharged Feb. 15, 1946. He is the son of James D. Hobgood, Sr., Baton Rouge, La.

⑪ JOSEPH JULIUS BUSH, JR., Seaman 1/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Julius Bush of Grosse Tete. He was born Dec. 26, 1926, and attended Shady Grove High School, PMS at Princeton, N. J., TCU at Fort Worth, and Tulane University, New Orleans. Entering the U. S. Naval Reserve on June 5, 1944, at New Orleans, he was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., and served with college training units at Princeton, TCU (V-12), and the U. S. Naval ROTC Unit at Tulane. On Aug. 31, 1944, he embarked for Pearl Harbor, going from the Receiving Station at Aiea, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, to U. S. Naval Hospital No. 10, Aiea Heights, and to Guam with the 59th Naval Construction Battalion, stationed at Saumay. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and World War II Victory Medal Ribbon. He was discharged June 7, 1946, at New Orleans.

⑫ HERBERT JOSEPH GOMEZ, Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Helen Monson Gomez. He was born July 25, 1918, and attended Dutchtown schools. He was inducted March 6, 1941, and received his training at Camp Blanding, Camp Fisher, Camp Bowie and Camp Edwards, after which he was assigned as truck driver in the Quartermaster Corps. On April 5, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater and served in England, France, Belgium and Germany, participating in the Normandy, Northern France and Rhineland Campaigns. He has the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, the American Defense Service Medal and the American Theater of Operations Medal. He was discharged at Camp Shelby Sept. 26, 1945.

⑬ MICHAEL A. PASSANTINO, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Passantino, Plaquemine, La. He was born June 13, 1924, and attended Plaquemine High School. He was inducted June 17, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, and received his Anti-Aircraft training at Camp Callan, Calif., and at Fort Bliss, Texas. On June 6, 1944, he embarked for Europe, and he served in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, participating in the Central Europe, Ardennes and Rhineland Campaigns. He has the European Theater of Operations Medal, the Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Ribbon. He was discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., Jan. 28, 1946.

⑭ HENRY EDWARD JOHNSON, Corporal, Infantry, AUS

Husband of Mildred Dupuy Johnson, Plaquemine, and son of Mrs. Georgia Zenetta Johnson. He was born Nov. 5, 1922, and attended Batson High School. He was a shipfitter prior to entering the Army in the Infantry on Feb. 3, 1943, at San Antonio. He served at Camp Howze, Texas, and Camp Livingston, then went to Camp Cooke and Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., for amphibious training. On Feb. 19, 1945, he embarked from Camp Myles Standish, Mass., for LeHavre, France. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe and particularly in the Battle for Cologne, the Ruhr Pocket and Bavaria. Returning to the States, he went to Manila with the Army of Occupation on Aug. 21, 1945. He has the European Theater and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbons, the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, Occupation Ribbon and Combat Infantry Badge and the Certificate of Merit. He was discharged March 5, 1946, at San Antonio, Texas.

⑮ GEORGE BOOKSH HOLLIDAY, QM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Georgie A. and Peola Webster Holliday of Grosse Tete, La. He was born June 19, 1926, and attended Shady Grove High School and LSU. He was inducted June 9, 1944, at New Orleans, and received his training at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., the U. S. Naval Training Station, Gulfport, Miss., and the ATB, Little Creek, Va. On June 15, 1945, he embarked for overseas, assigned to duty aboard the USS LSM 297. He is still on active duty in the service.

⑯ JAMES DAVIS COLLINS, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Ella Ruth Collins and father of Marian Ruth Collins. He was born Nov. 12, 1923, son of Mrs. Philoman Mary Collins of Plaquemine. He attended Plaquemine High School and was engaged in the commercial fishing business prior to entering the U. S. Naval Reserve on Nov. 3, 1943, at Lafayette. After boot training at the U. S. Naval Training Station he embarked for Pearl Harbor March 3, 1944, and spent nineteen months overseas. He attended Landing Craft School (Pacific) in Hawaii and was assigned to the USS Casa Grande. He also served with Commander Service for the Seventh Fleet (AB-TRIM), and with the USS Starlight. He was in combat on Saipan in the Mariana Islands, Leyte and Luzon in the Philippine Islands, and Okinawa in the Ryukyus Group, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Campaign Stars.

⑰ PAUL R. ANGELLOZ, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Arther A. Angelloz of Grosse Tete, La., he was born Aug. 22, 1926. He is a graduate of Shady Grove High School, and upon graduation entered the U. S. Navy. This was July 29, 1944.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑱ THOMAS LAFAYETTE LOWE, JR., Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Goldie Brown Lowe of Port Allen and son of Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Lowe, Sr. He was born May 26, 1925, and attended Port Allen High School. He was inducted Feb. 8, 1943, and received his training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, and at the Receiving Station, San Francisco. On April 5, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he participated in the campaigns in the Aleutians, the Gilberts, the Marshalls, Palau, New Guinea and Okinawa. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans Jan. 31, 1946.

⑲ HAROLD ALPHONSE HAASE, JR., Coxswain, U. S. Naval Reserve

Husband of Mary Ann Crochet Haase and father of Mary Carol and Clarisse Ann Haase. He was born Nov. 14, 1925, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Alphonse Haase of Plaquemine, and attended Plaquemine High School. He operated a service station prior to entering the Naval Reserve on Jan. 12, 1944, at Lafayette. He went to the U. S. Naval Training Station and San Diego, Calif., and was assigned to duty for the subsequent year at the U. S. Naval Landing Craft School at Coronado. He embarked for Pearl Harbor on March 13, 1945, and served on Eniwetok, Guam, Saipan, Okinawa, on Luzon, Leyte, Samar and at Manila in the Philippines, at Yokohama, Tokyo and Sendai, in combat and in the occupation force in Japan with the USS LSM 156. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations and Philippine Liberation Ribbons with Campaign Stars for Luzon and Okinawa. Harold was discharged at New Orleans Feb. 10, 1946.

⑳ JOSEPH PRESTON KLIENPETER, JR., PFC, Medical Corps, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Preston Klienpeter. He was born Jan. 12, 1925, and attended Shady Grove School. Entering the Army in the Medical Corps on July 30, 1943, at Lafayette, he was assigned to Camp Barkeley, Texas, for basic and technical training. From the Overseas Replacement Depot at Pittsburg, Calif., he embarked Jan. 15, 1944, for New Guinea, where he served at Milne Bay as a member of a port battalion. He also served at Oro Bay, New Guinea, assigned to duty with the 363rd Station Hospital. Going to the Philippines he worked in the 249th General Hospital. He was in combat in the Campaigns of New Guinea and Luzon and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with Two Bronze Campaign Stars and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Star. He also has the World War II Victory Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Jan. 21, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Germaine Catherine Laville

Corporal, U. S. M.C.W.R.

Daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Louis Parkerson Laville of Plaquemine, La., she was born May 16, 1922. Germaine attended Plaquemine High School. After graduating she entered Louisiana State University. Prior to her entrance into the service she was a teacher at Shady Grove School. Entering the Marine Corps Sept 6, 1943, Corporal Laville was assigned to Camp LeJeune, New River, N. C., for basic training. She was then sent to the U. S. Naval Base at Cherry Point, N. C., as an instructor in aerial gunnery. Corporal Laville lost her life in a fire at Cherry Point, N. C., June 3, 1944. While at LSU she was a member of Alpha Chi Omega Social Sorority and a Senior Adviser.

② Joseph Bernard Daigre

Major, U. S. Army

Son of J. Edward Daigre of Plaquemine, La., he was born Dec. 17, 1916, and attended Plaquemine High School and Louisiana State University. Daigre entered the armed forces Feb. 10, 1941, and was assigned to Fort Benning, Ga. At Camp Chaffee, Ark., Daigre received his promotion to captain and was moved to California's Mojave Desert for five months' training. In January, 1944, he reported to Indiantown Gap, Pa., and joined the Fifth Armored Division, was promoted to major and served as intelligence officer of Combat Command "A." He departed Feb. 10, 1944, for the European Theater and participated in the Battle of Normandy, Battle of Northern France, Battle of the Rhineland, Battle of the Bulge and Battle of Central Germany. Major Daigre was awarded the European Theater Medal with five Bronze Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation, Victory Medal and American Defense Medal. He received the Purple Heart Aug. 10, 1944, at Ballon, France. After more than four years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged Nov. 21, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Frank Edward Clark

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

Husband of Annie Lou Clark of Rosedale, La. He was born May 26, 1918, and attended Shady Grove High School and LSU. He was inducted at Barksdale Field on July 6, 1940, and was sent to Aeroplane Mechanics School at Chanute Field. He was then returned to Barksdale Field, assigned to duty as crash fire truck driver. He was later transferred to Albuquerque, N. M., as aeroplane mechanic with the 383rd Sch. Squadron at Kirkland Field. He was then sent to Amarillo, Texas, for B-29 Flight Engineer's Pre-Flight School, and then to Lowry Field, Colo. At Maxwell Field, Ala., he received B-29 Transition Training, and was then assigned to Davis Monthan Field to train with the 489th Bomb Group. Sergeant Clark has the American Defense Service Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Tucson, Ariz. on Nov. 10, 1945. He is the son of Walter B. and Jean H. Clark of Rosedale, La.

② LeRoy S. Aucoin

Sergeant, Infantry, AUS

Husband of June R. LeGendre Aucoin, New Iberia, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifton A. Aucoin, Jr., of Plaquemine. He was born Oct. 15, 1921, and attended Plaquemine High School and Southwestern Louisiana Institute (B. S. degree). Entering the Army Aug. 17, 1942, at Baton Rouge, he served at Camp Beauregard, Camp Roberts, Calif., City College, N. Y., and Purdue University, Ind., under the ASTP. From Camp Swift, Texas, he went to Fort Dix, N. J., for overseas staging and Camp Kilmer, N. J., for embarkation. On Sept. 12, 1944, he went to the European Theater where he served in France and Holland prior to going into combat in Germany. Sergeant Aucoin fought in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe and was on the Siegfried Line, in the race from the Roer to the Rhine River and from the Rhine to the Elbe and the Soviet Zone of Occupation. He has the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in action against the enemy, the Purple Heart for wounds received at Bielfeld, Germany, on April 14, 1945, the Good Conduct Medal, Combat Infantry Badge, and European Theater Ribbon with two Stars. He was honorably discharged Dec. 26, 1945, from Brooke General Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

③ Raymond Joseph Gascon, Jr.

Corporal, U. S. Marine Corps (R)

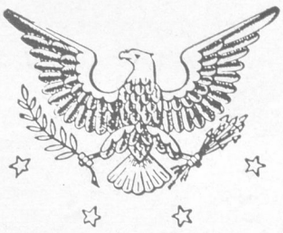
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Joseph Gascon, Plaquemine. He was born Nov. 7, 1925, and attended Plaquemine High School. He was an analyst in the laboratory of the Aluminum Company of America in Baton Rouge prior to entering the USMCR Sept. 23, 1943, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Marine Corps Base at San Diego, Cal., where he received boot training, he went to Camp Elliott, Calif., for infantry training and Light Machine Gun School. He has also served at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif., and the Marine Barracks, Naval Ammunition Depot, New Orleans. On March 5, 1944, he embarked for the transient center on Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. He received combat training on Kauai, T. H., and served on Tinian Island in the Marianas as searchlight operator and machine gunner, taking part in the Marine Invavsion of Tinian. He also served on Saipan in the Marianas Campaign, as a member of the beach party. Returning to the States, Corporal Gascon was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on Feb. 2, 1946.

④ George P. Bridges, Jr.

PFC, Infantry, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. George P. Bridges of Maringouin, Pointe Coupee Parish. He was born May 30, 1923. He was engaged in farming prior to entering the U. S. Army in the Infantry on March 17, 1943, at New Roads. At Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., he joined the 75th Infantry Division with which he served at Camp Forrest, Tenn., to Sept. 1, 1943, when the Fifth Ranger Battalion was activated and moved to Fort Dix, N. J., to serve in the European Theater with the First U. S. Army. On Dec. 20 the Battalion moved to Camp Kilmer and embarked from New York Harbor on Jan. 8, 1944, aboard HMS Mauretania. Docking at Liverpool, the Rangers moved to Leominister, England, and were assigned to IV Corps, moving to Scotland for combat training. They made the D-Day landing on Normandy Beach June 6, 1944, and fought through the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the EAMETO Ribbon with five Bronze Campaign Stars, the Distinguished Unit Badge, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal and Combat Infantry Badge.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Ellen Babin Dart

② Tracy Babin

③ Fontaine A. Babin

④ George P. Aucoin

⑤ Lee Allen Guillote

⑥ Lloyd L. Guillote

⑦ Joseph Cyprien Templet, Jr.

⑧ Henry LeJeune

⑨ Joseph C. Parque

⑩ Wilson Joseph LeClercq

⑪ Leonard Joseph Clouatre

⑫ Lee Bennie Ourso

⑬ Eugene Paul Markins

⑭ Augustus Gussie Markins, Jr.

⑮ Edward J. Simpson

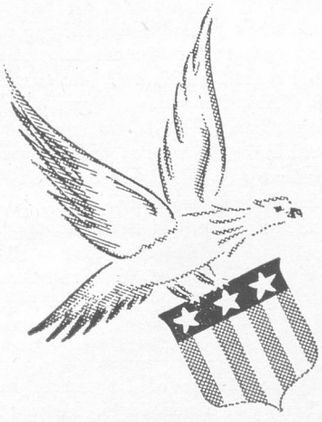
⑯ Robert Harry Simpson

⑰ Arthur Allain Viallon

⑱ Hollis R. Simpson

⑲ Lester J. Simpson

⑳ Joseph Rosario Fama





① ELLEN BABIN DART,
First Lieutenant, U. S. Army Nurses' Corps

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O'Neal Babin, 617 University Walk, Baton Rouge, La. She was born Aug. 24, 1915, attended Baton Rouge High School, and the Baton Rouge General Hospital for nurses' training. She was inducted March 11, 1941, and served at Camp Livingston on General Nursing duty. On May 14, 1943, she embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served in Australia and New Guinea, assigned to general duty nursing. She was honorably discharged at Fort Sam Houston Nov. 20, 1945.

② TRACY BABIN, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Babin, Sunshine, La. He was born Dec. 31, 1920, and attended Highland school. He was inducted July 2, 1942, and received his training at Camp Roberts, Calif., Fort Meade, Md., and Fort Moultrie, S. C. On Dec. 26, 1942, he embarked for the Southwest Pacific where he served with the 126th Infantry, participating in the compaigns at New Guinea, East Indies, Leyte and Luzon. Private First Class Babin was awarded the Purple Heart. He was honorably discharged at Fort Sam Houston, Nov. 10, 1945.

③ FONTAINE A. BABIN, Private, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. O'Neal Babin, Sunshine, La. He was born Feb. 23, 1923, and attended Catholic High School. He was inducted Feb. 19, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, and received his Infantry training at Camp McCain, Miss. On May 10, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served as rifleman in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, participating in the Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns. Private Babin was awarded the Purple Heart Aug. 5, 1945. He was honorably discharged Oct. 20, 1945, at Camp Wolters, Texas.

④ GEORGE P. AUCOIN, Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Isabel S. Aucoin of Plaquemine, La. He was born Feb. 22, 1915, and attended Napoleonville schools. He was inducted April 13, 1944, into the Combat Engineers, and received his training at Camp Van Dorn, Miss., after which he was assigned to duty as a truck driver. On Oct. 30, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and served in England, France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and Germany. Corporal Aucoin participated in the campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe, and he has the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal with two Battle Stars, a Unit Citation and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged Oct. 31, 1945.

⑤ LEE ALLEN GUILLOTE, Corporal, Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Guillote, Rosedale, La. He was born Sept. 16, 1920, attended Shady Grove High School, and worked in a sugar refinery prior to entering the service. He was inducted Dec. 22, 1941, and received his training at Keesler Field, Miss.; Greensboro, N. C., and Camp Miles Standish, Boston. On July 2, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and served as firefighter with the 2110th Engineer Fire Fighting Platoon. Corporal Guillote has the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal with one Battle Star, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Dec. 24, 1945.

⑥ LLOYD L. GUILLOTE, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Guillote, Rosedale, La. He was born Oct. 13, 1925, and attended Shady Grove High School. He was inducted March 23, 1944, and received his Infantry training at Camp Robinson, Ark., Camp Maxey, Texas, and Camp Howze, Texas. On Oct. 6, 1944, he embarked for Europe, and served in France, Germany, Austria and Italy as a mortarman. The Purple Heart was awarded Nov. 28, 1944, in France, and he has also the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal with two Battle Stars, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Nov. 29, 1945, and re-enlisted.

⑦ JOSEPH CYPRIEN TEMPLET, JR.,
Aviation BM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Nona Sharon Templet, Route 2, Plaquemine. He was born July 23, 1926, and attended Crescent, Plaquemine, Shady Grove and St. John's High Schools. He was with Wilbert Sugar Mill and Iberville Manufacturing Corporation prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on Feb. 15, 1944, at New Orleans. From Camp Bennion Naval Training Station, Farragut, Idaho, he embarked for the Pacific area April 29, 1944, serving in the Gilbert Islands, the Marshalls, the Marianas, the Ryukyus Group, the Philippines, China and Japan, assigned to duty as Aviation Boatswain's Mate, servicing planes. He was in combat in the Ryukyus Campaign and the Marianas Campaign and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Campaign Stars, the American Theater Ribbon, World War II Victory Ribbon, and a commendation from the commanding officer of the USS Casco. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on April 30, 1946.

⑧ HENRY LEJEUNE, PFC, Infantry, AUS

Husband of Tessie Cecilia LeJeune, Route 2, Plaquemine, and son of Mrs. Mary Hortense LeJeune of Plaquemine. He was born Feb. 18, 1920, and attended Port Allen High School, working as an employee of an aluminum plant in Baton Rouge prior to his induction into the Army May 25, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Fort Brown, Brownsville, Texas, at Fort Ringgold, Rio Grande City, Texas, and at Fort Riley, Kan., assigned to duty as a machine gunner. On July 26, 1944, he left San Francisco for the China-Burma-India Theater, fighting as a heavy machine gunner in the campaigns of Burma, the China Defensive, Central Burma, India-Burma and the China Offensive. He has the Infantry Combat Badge, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with four Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Jan. 10, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

⑨ JOSEPH C. PARQUE, PFC, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Parque of Plaquemine. He was born Aug. 17, 1923, and attended Plaquemine High School. He was a construction worker in an aluminum plant prior to entering the Army Air Forces Oct. 30, 1942, at Lake Charles Army Air Field where he served as a basic trainee, going from there to Aloe Air Field, Victoria, Texas, as an aircraft mechanic. He served as a mechanic at Amarillo Army Air Base, Amarillo, Texas, at Randolph Field in San Antonio, Texas, and at Foster Field in Victoria, Texas, serving in this capacity throughout his term of military service. He has the Good Conduct Medal and the Sharpshooter Badge as well as the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, and was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Feb. 28, 1946.

⑩ WILSON JOSEPH LECLERCQ, PFC, AUS

Husband of Lydia Parque LeClercq, 103 Kearney street, Plaquemine, and father of Mary Lou and Linda Theresa LeClercq and stepfather of Barbara Rivet. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alcee J. LeClercq of Plaquemine and was with the Chicago Bridge and Iron Company, Contractors, prior to entering the Army of the United States June 25, 1941, reinducted Dec. 10, 1942. He served at Camp Livingston, Camp Hood, Texas, Camp Bowie, Texas, Camp Forrest, Tenn., Camp Shelby, Miss., Camp Wheeler, Ga., and Camp Kilmer, N. J. With the Armored Force, he went to the European Theater July 26, 1944, and served as a 37-millimeter gunner on a tank destroyer in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. He fought in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the European Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct and American Defense Service Ribbons. He was honorably discharged Aug. 22, 1945.

⑪ LEONARD JOSEPH CLOUATRE, Tec/Sgt., U. S. Army

Husband of Roberta Ourso Clouatre of Plaquemine and son of Mr. and Mrs. James Clouatre of Bayou Goula. He was born May 6, 1919, and attended Our Lady of Prompt Succor School and White

Castle High School. Entering the Army of the United States on Feb. 9, 1942, at Plaquemine, he served at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., with the Medical Corps and at MacDill Field, Tampa, Fla., and Waycross Army Air Field, Waycross, Ga., with the Veterinary Corps. From Camp Gordon, Augusta, Ga., where he received combat training, he went to Fort George G. Meade, Md., for embarkation. He departed for the European Theater April 21, 1945, landing at LeHavre and serving in Germany with an Ordnance Depot, and at Namur, Belgium. He was in combat in the Campaign of Central Europe and has the American Theater Ribbon, European Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged March 22, 1946, at Camp Shelby and enlisted in the Reserve Corps.

⑫ LEE BENNIE OURSO, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Joseph Ourso of Plaquemine. He was born Feb. 28, 1926, and attended Our Lady of Prompt Succor School and White Castle Schools. He was engaged in farming prior to entering the Army of the United States on Jan. 16, 1945, at Napoleonville. He served at Camp Chaffee, Ark., Camp Wolters, Texas, where he also operated an army vehicle, and Ford Ord, Calif., port of embarkation. On June 13, 1945, he departed for Luzon, Philippine Islands, with the Second Engineers Special Brigade, with which he also served in the landings at Tokyo and the occupation of Yokohama, Japan. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Presidential Unit Citation for outstanding performance of duty under fire, the Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was granted his honorable discharge at the convenience of the government in Yokohama on Nov. 9, 1945, to enable him to enlist in the Regular United States Army.

⑬ EUGENE PAUL MARKINS, Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Irene T. Markins, 312 Court street, Plaquemine, La. He was born October 26, 1920, attended Plaquemine High School, and was a surveyor prior to his induction Nov. 15, 1942. He received his basic training at Camp Claiborne, La., and was then sent to Camp Anza, Calif., from where he embarked for the European Theater March 28, 1943. He served at Teheran, Iran, as lineman. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Jan. 1, 1946.

⑭ AUGUSTUS GUSSIE MARKINS, JR., U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Mrs. Irene T. Markins, 312 Court street, Plaquemine, La. He was born June 30, 1919, and attended Plaquemine High School. He was inducted at Mobile, Ala., Oct. 30, 1940, and received his boot training at Fort Lauderdale, Fla., after which he was assigned to the Coast Guard Air Station at Charleston, as cook. He served in the same capacity at Coast Guard Yard, Baltimore, Receiving Station, Ellis Island, and Coast Guard Barracks, New Orleans. In May, 1942, he embarked for San Juan, Puerto Rico, where he served as cook. He is still on active duty in the service.

⑮ EDWARD J. SIMPSON, M/Sgt., MC, AUS

Son of Mrs. Henry Deas Simpson, 709 Plaquemine street, Plaquemine. He was born Oct. 18, 1918, and attended Plaquemine High School. He operated a truck prior to his induction into the Army of the United States on Dec. 10, 1940, at Camp Beauregard. Master Sergeant Simpson served at Camp Beauregard, Camp Shelby, Miss., and Camp Livingston, Alexandria, as clerk and typist, personnel sergeant major, and sergeant major headquarters. On Sept. 5, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater where he served as sergeant major in England and in France. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Northern France and the Rhineland and has the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and the American Theater Medal. He was honorably discharged Nov. 14, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑯ ROBERT HARRY SIMPSON, Sergeant, Air Forces

Son of Mrs. Henry Deas Simpson, 709 Plaquemine street, Plaquemine. He was born July 6, 1914, and attended Plaquemine High School. He was a chemical operator for Ethyl Corporation, Baton Rouge, at the time of his entering the Army Air Forces on November 23, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. Sergeant Simpson attended AAF Technical Training schools at Keesler Field, Miss., Lowry Field, Denver, Camp Stoneman, Calif., and Hunter Field, Savannah, Ga. On September 11, 1943, he went to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations where he served in New Guinea, Wake Island and Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines, assigned to duty as an aircraft armorer. He was in combat in the Campaigns of New Guinea, the Southern Philippines and Luzon, and has the Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Star, and World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Nov. 20, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑰ ARTHUR ALLAIN VIALLON, Petty Officer 2/C, USNR

Husband of Louise Simpson Viallon, 709 Plaquemine street, Plaquemine. He was born Jan. 5, 1914, the son of Paul Louis and Nora LeBlanc Viallon of White Castle, and attended White Castle High School. He was in the insurance business prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on April 7, 1942, at New Orleans. After training at Camp Allen and Camp Bradford in Norfolk, Va., he went to Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif., as supply storekeeper. On Aug. 18, 1942, he embarked for Dutch Harbor, Alaska, and served in the Aleutian Islands and on Okinawa in the same capacity. Returning to the States, Petty Officer Viallon was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on Oct. 22, 1945.

⑱ HOLLIS R. SIMPSON, Sergeant, Air Forces

Son of Mrs. Henry Deas Simpson, 709 Plaquemine street, Plaquemine. He was born July 25, 1921, and attended Plaquemine High School. He was with Dutton Motor Company, Baton Rouge, prior to his induction into the Army Air Forces at New Orleans Oct. 30, 1942. He served at Lake Charles Army Air Field and at Aloe Army Air Field, Victoria, Texas, as an airplane and engine mechanic throughout his period of military duty with the Army Air Forces. Sergeant Simpson was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Feb. 27, 1946.

⑲ LESTER J. SIMPSON, GM 2/C, USNR

Son of Mrs. Henry Deas Simpson, 709 Plaquemine street, Plaquemine. He was born April 16, 1924, and attended Plaquemine High School. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on June 17, 1943, at Lafayette, he trained at the U. S. Naval Training Center, at Camp Shoemaker, Calif., and at Camp Elliott, Calif. On Sept. 7, 1943, he embarked for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations with USS SC 761, with which he served in New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, the New Hebrides, the Fiji Islands, the Tonga Islands, New Zealand, the Marshall Islands, Guam, and the Hawaiian Islands. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and World War II Victory Ribbon, and was granted his honorable discharge March 9, 1946, at the Naval Air Station in New Orleans.

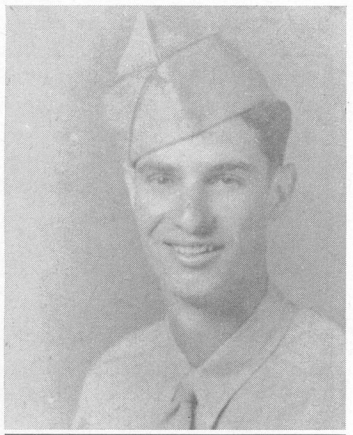
⑳ JOSEPH ROSARIO FAMA, Medical Corps, Army

Husband of Mrs. Lena Mae Fama, 709 Plaquemine street, Plaquemine, and father of Donna Sue Fama. He was born Dec. 11, 1918, and is the son of Joseph R. and Reggar Rosso Fama, 709 Plaquemine street, Plaquemine. He attended Plaquemine High School, Louisiana State University (Pre-Medical Course), and Louisiana Medical School. On Oct. 5, 1944, he entered the Army in the Medical Corps at Vaughn General Hospital, Hines, Ill., and served at Carlisle Barracks, Philadelphia, Pa., Fort Bragg, N. C., Fort Lewis, Wash., and Camp Beale, Calif. In May, 1945, he went to Oahu, Hawaii, and served on Oahu, at Osaka, Japan, and on Okinawa. He was continuing to serve with the Medical Corps in the Army of Occupation.

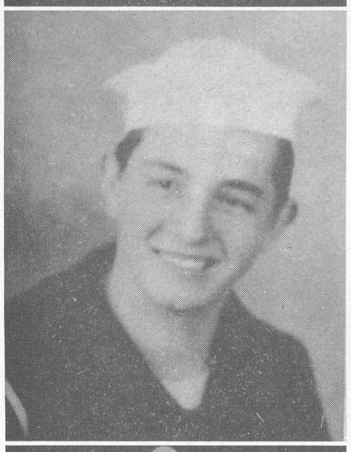
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



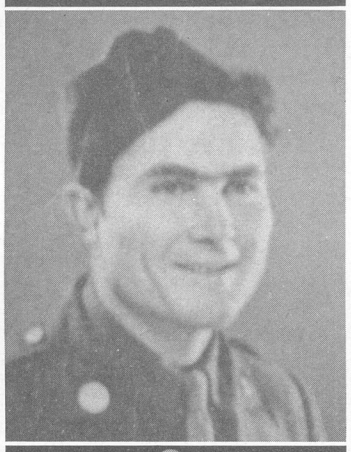
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② Charles W. Cambre, Jr.

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Charles W. Cambre, Sr., and Mrs. Fannie H. Cambre, St. Gabriel, La. He was born Jan. 20, 1926, and attended St. Gabriel High School and Spencer Business College. Inducted April 20, 1944, he received his training at Camp Beauregard, La., Camp Shelby, Miss., and Camp Shanks, N. Y. On Oct. 30, 1944, he embarked for the European area where he served with the 1262nd Combat Engineers in England, France, Belgium and Germany. Sergeant Cambre participated in the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns, and he has the European Theater of Operations Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged June 3, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

③ Irby A. Gascon, Jr.

Seaman, U. S. Merchant Marine

Husband of Theresa Bradford Gascon, Route 1, Plaquemine, La. He was born Nov. 12, 1926, and attended Plaquemine High School and Louisiana State University. He was inducted Nov. 18, 1944, at New Orleans, and received his training at the U. S. Maritime Service Training Station, St. Petersburg, Fla., after which he had duty assignments on the SS Point Breeze and the SS Cathlamet. On July 15, 1945, he embarked for South America, and he served in Chile, Cuba, Colombia, Panama and Peru. Seaman Gascon is still on active duty in the service. He is the son of Irby A. and Mae Caze Gascon, 808 Railroad Avenue, Plaquemine, La.

① Selwyn David Richard

Radioman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Richard of St. Gabriel, Iberville Parish. He was born Oct. 29, 1925, and attended St. Gabriel High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the United States Naval Reserve as a voluntary enlistee on Oct. 5, 1943, at New Orleans, he went to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., and served also at the Receiving Station, San Diego, and the Beach Battalion, Amphibious Training Base, Oceanside, Calif. Assigned to the USS Mountrail APA 213, he departed the same day, Nov. 23, 1944, for the Pacific Theater of Operations where he served with the beach party of the USS Mountrail operating portable radio equipment in landing and amphibious operations and from the landing craft (LCVP). In this capacity he fought in the Campaign for Okinawa. He continued to serve with the USS Mountrail after the dissolution of the beach party with the end of the war and expected to be discharged in the late spring of 1946.

④ Clyde Irvin Moody

Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Byron Moody of LeBlanc, La. He was born Jan. 8, 1920, attended Reeves High School, and was employed by Swift and Company prior to entering the service. He was inducted March 18, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, and received his training at Camp Claiborne, La., and at Fort Bragg, N. C. On Sept. 15, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served in England, France, Belgium and Germany. Corporal Moody participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Rhineland and Central Europe, and he has the Oak Leaf Cluster, the Presidential Citation, the European Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., Nov. 27, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Vernon Joseph Melancon

Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Josephine Daigle Melancon of St. Gabriel, La. He was born July 3, 1923, and attended Saint Gabriel High School and Spencer Business College. He was inducted Jan. 27, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, and he served as Cook and Cannoneer at Camp Hood, Texas, and at Fort Knox, Ky. He was on detached service for six months on the scrap metal drive in several counties in Texas. Corporal Melancon has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, Feb. 10, 1946, after serving for three years. He is the son of Mr. John Alfred Melancon of St. Gabriel, La.

② Sterling Louis LeBlanc

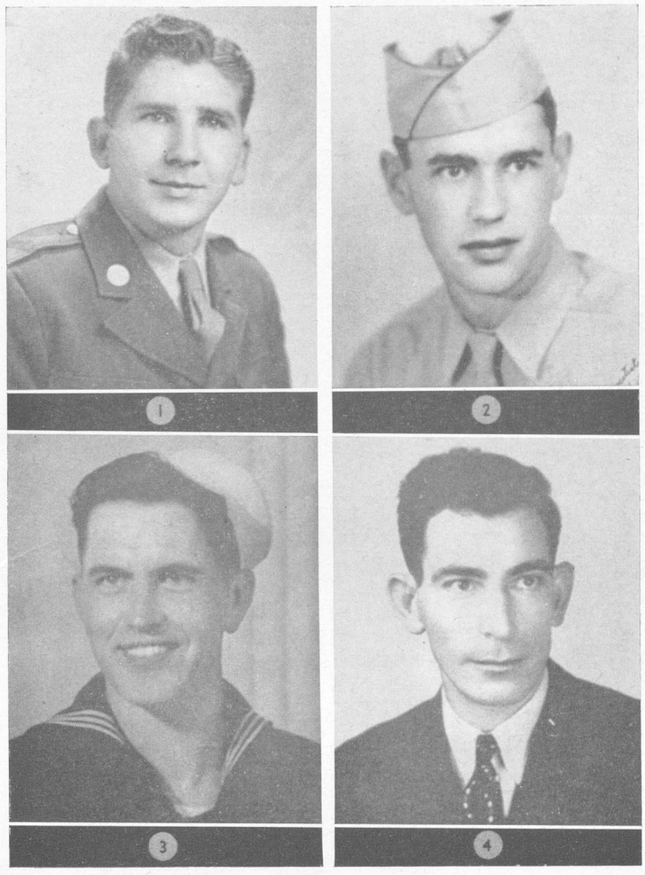
Corporal, U. S. Army Air Force

Husband of Dorothy Ann D'Albor LeBlanc, 714 Main Street, Plaquemine, La. He was born Feb. 19, 1923, attended St. John High School, and was employed by the Delta Shipbuilding Corporation prior to entering the service. He was inducted Oct. 19, 1943, at Lafayette, and received his training at Sheppard Field, Texas; AAFTS, Sioux Falls, S. D., AAFFGO, Yuma, Ariz., Barksdale Field, La., and RTU, Lake Charles, La. On Feb. 22, 1945, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served in France, Belgium and Germany as radio operator and gunner on B-26. Corporal LeBlanc participated in the Campaigns of Northern France and Central Europe, and he has the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Distinguished Unit Badge, the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., March 12, 1946. He is the son of Francis Samuel and Mary Elodie LeBlanc, 606 Railroad Avenue, Plaquemine, La.

③ Walter Byron Romaine

Radioman Third Class, U. S. Navy

Husband of Mary Meredith Romaine and father of Judith Ann Romaine, Plaquemine, La. He was born May 13, 1918, attended Stamps High School in Arkansas and was a pharmacist prior to entering the service. He was inducted June 7, 1944, at Little Rock, Ark., and received his boot training at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., then attended Radio School at the Naval Reserve Armory, Los Angeles, Calif. On March 12, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he served at Pearl Harbor, Eniwetok, Ulithi, Okinawa, Guam and Manila, participating in the campaign at Okinawa. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on Jan. 25, 1946. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Bell of Stamps, Arkansas.



④ Joseph P. Musso

Captain, MC, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Wilba L. Musso of Plaquemine and father of Jo Anne Musso. He is the son of Mrs. M. Musso of Sunshine and attended St. Gabriel High School, LSU and Louisiana State Medical Center. He entered the Army in the Medical Corps on Jan. 26, 1946, at Sunshine and was assigned to Carlisle Barracks, Carlisle, Pa., for training. He served as ward surgeon at Woodrow Wilson General Hospital at Staunton, Va. He went to Camp Campbell, Ky., for battalion surgeon's work. Leaving for Marseilles, France, on Oct. 14, 1944, he served as battalion surgeon for the 48th Tank Battalion, 14th Armored Division, from Marseilles up through the Vosges Mountains and the Rhineland to Munich. Augsburg and Berlin in Germany. He was in combat in the Rhineland and Central Germany and has the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in the performance of duty under enemy fire, the Purple Heart awarded for wounds received at Nieder Biebersdorf in the Rhineland on Jan. 15, 1945, and the Combat Medic Badge. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on April 19, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① David J. Carville

② Louis A. Carville, Jr.

③ Chester James Carville

④ Lloyd A. Carville

⑤ Thomas O'Connor Blakeney

⑥ Norman J. Comeaux

⑦ Louis Joseph Spragio

⑧ Myron Anthony Comeaux

⑨ Victor Miranda

⑩ Johnny Ivan Miranda, Jr.

⑪ Frank Adam Cambre

⑫ William Paul Cambre

⑬ Adrian H. Callais

⑭ Andrew G. Guidry

⑮ Cyril Joseph Guidry

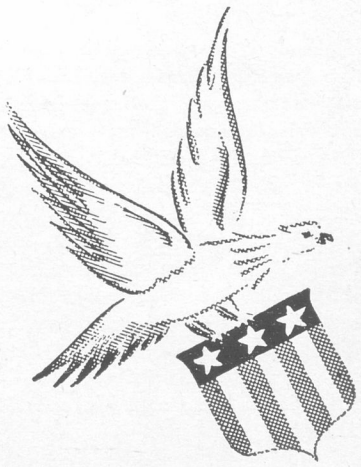
⑯ Charles F. Guidry

⑰ Ramon Francis Edward Carreras

⑱ C. Roland Dardenne

⑲ Edward S. Carreras

⑳ Joseph E. Carreras



① **DAVID J. CARVILLE, Major, U. S. Army**

Husband of Erline Black Carville of Birmingham, Ala. He was born April 26, 1913, and attended Louisiana State University. He was inducted Feb. 20, 1941, and served at Fort Benning, Ga., as company commander and instructor in the Infantry School. On April 13, 1942, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he served in the New Hebrides and the British Solomon Islands as company commander and battalion executive officer. Major Carville participated in the campaign of the Northern Solomons. He has the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He was honorably discharged on Nov. 4, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Carville of Carville, La.

② **LOUIS A. CARVILLE, JR., Major, U. S. Army**

Husband of Elsie St. Martin Carville of Gramercy, La. He was born Sept. 8, 1911, and attended Louisiana State University. Inducted Feb. 26, 1942, he received his training at Lawson Field, Savannah Army Air Base, and Key Field, assigned then to Chemical Warfare. On Sept. 22, 1942, he embarked for Egypt, and he served there, Sicily, Italy and China, participating in the campaigns of Lybia, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno and China. He has the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal with six Battle Stars, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Sept. 15, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

③ **CHESTER JAMES CARVILLE, Major, U. S. Army**

Husband of Lucille Normano Carville of New Roads, La. He was born Feb. 12, 1915, and attended Louisiana State University. He was inducted Nov. 11, 1940, and served as company commander at Fort Jackson, S. C., and at the Presidio in San Francisco. He served as battalion commander at Camp Robinson, Ark., and at Camp Livingston, La. On Dec. 12, 1941, he embarked for the Central Pacific, where he served as company commander and battalion commander. He was honorably discharged at Camp Livingston Dec. 23, 1945. He is the son of Louis Arthur and Pearl Slangerup Carville of Carville, La.

④ **LLOYD A. CARVILLE, S/Sgt., U. S. Army Air Force**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Carville of Carville, La. He was born Sept. 12, 1923, and attended Catholic High School and Louisiana State University. Inducted Jan. 28, 1943, he received his training at Keesler Field, Lowry Field, Salt Lake City Air Base and Langley Field, Va. On Jan. 21, 1944, he embarked for Europe, and he served in England as aerial gunner, participating in the Air Offensive over Europe, and the Western Europe Campaign. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged Oct. 10, 1945, at Barksdale Field.

⑤ **THOMAS O'CONNOR BLAKENEY, Lt. Col., U. S. Army**

Husband of Mary Carville Blakeney of Carville, La. He was born Dec. 8, 1917, and attended Louisiana State University. He was inducted July 5, 1939, and served at Fort Sam Houston, Fort Knox, Camp Bowie, Fort Benning and back to Fort Knox as chief of Weapons Section, Armored Board. On January 13, 1943, he embarked for the Mediterranean Theater where he served, participating in the campaigns of Tunisia, Southern Italy, South Volturno and North Volturno. He has the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal with three Battle Stars. He is still in the service. He is the son of John O'Connor Blakeney of Stephenville, Texas.

⑥ **NORMAN J. COMEAUX, Corporal, U. S. Army**

Son of Mrs. Ernest Comeaux, Route 1, Plaquemine, La. He was born Dec. 25, 1918, and attended Brusly High School. He was inducted March 17, 1942, and received his training at Camp Claiborne, La., Fort Bragg, N. C., and Maxton Laurenburg Air Base, N. C. On Sept. 5, 1943, he embarked for Europe where he served in England, France, Holland, Belgium, Germany and Austria, participating in the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, Central Europe and Battle of the Bulge campaigns. Corporal Comeaux has the Bronze Star Medal, the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, and the Bronze Arrowhead. He was honorably discharged Sept. 21, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑦ **LOUIS JOSEPH SPRAGIO, MoMM 3/C, U. S. Navy**

Husband of Dimple Comeaux Spragio, Plaquemine, La. He was born May 23, 1919, and attended White Castle High School. Inducted May 18, 1944, he received his training at Camp Wallace, Fort Pierce and Newport, R. I., after which he was assigned to the USS Polette (AKA 99). On April 25, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater where he served at Pearl Harbor, Marshall Islands, Caroline Islands and Japan. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Jan. 20, 1946. He is the father of Louis Joseph Spragio, Jr.

⑧ **MYRON ANTHONY COMEAUX, Sergeant, U. S. Army**

Son of Mrs. Julia Comeaux, Route 1, Plaquemine, La. He was born March 1, 1922, and attended Brusly High School. He was inducted into the Engineers Corps Dec. 22, 1942, and received his training at Camp Carson, Colo., and Camp Polk, La. On Nov. 13, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater where he served in England, France, Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg and Holland, participating in the Battle of the Bulge, and the campaigns of Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. Sergeant Comeaux has the European Theater of Operations Medal, the Bronze Arrowhead, the American Theater of Operations Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged Nov. 1, 1945.

⑨ **VICTOR MIRANDA, ACOM (PA), USN**

Husband of Regina Machiel Miranda, 502 Road A, Damon Tract, Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, and father of Gerald Nerius and Geraldine Marie Miranda. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Ivan Miranda, 520 Haase street, Plaquemine, he was born June 23, 1921, and attended Plaquemine High School. From the U. S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, he embarked Nov. 21, 1940, with the USS Oklahoma for the U. S. Naval Air Station at Pearl Harbor, T. H., where he served as Storekeeper, Yeoman and Aviation Ordnanceman. He was at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese struck Dec. 7, 1941, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, the American Defense Service Ribbon with one Campaign Star, the Good Conduct Medal and Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon. He was continuing to serve as Aviation Ordnanceman at the Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Kingsville, Texas, in charge of personnel, Squadron VN2D8-D.

⑩ **JOHNNY IVAN MIRANDA, JR., Corporal, Air Forces**

Husband of Mrs. Louise Ann Collura Miranda, 520 Haase street, Plaquemine, and son of Johnny Ivan and Alida Oubre Miranda of Plaquemine. He was born May 12, 1918, and attended Plaquemine High School and the Army Air Forces School of Supply. He was a barkeeper prior to entering the Army Air Forces Feb. 9, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, and served at Keesler Field, Biloxi, Miss., Salt Lake City Army Air Base, Utah, Spokane Army Air Base, Wash., and Muroc Army Air Base, Dry Lake, Calif., assigned to duty as a supply clerk. From Fort Dix, N. J., he embarked Sept. 5, 1942, for the European Theater where he served as AAF supply clerk in England, Belgium and France, serving in the Air Offensive over Europe, the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and Distinguished Unit Citation Badge (366th Bombardment Squadron, 305th Bombardment Group Heavy, Eighth U. S. Air Force).

⑪ **FRANK ADAM CAMBRE, U. S. Navy**

Son of William Lucian and Eulalie B. Cambre of Carville, La. He was born Sept. 13, 1926, and attended St. Gabriel High School. He was inducted Sept. 18, 1943, at New Orleans, and received his training at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., and at the Naval Receiving Station at Shoemaker, Calif. On June 17,

1944, he embarked for oversea duty, serving aboard the USS YP 504, and at Base Armory Navy 3205. When he was eligible for discharge, he re-enlisted for another term.

⑫ WILLIAM PAUL CAMBRE, U. S. Navy

Son of William Lucian and Eulalie B. Cambre of Carville, La. He was born May 16, 1924, and attended St. Gabriel High School. He served in the U. S. Merchant Marine from Feb. 25, 1943, to March 26, 1944, at which time he was inducted into the U. S. Navy. After receiving his training at Alameda, Calif., he was assigned to CASU 37, CASU 64, CASU F17 and CASU 53. He served throughout the European Theater of Operations, participating in campaigns in that area. He is still in the service.

⑬ ADRIAN H. CALLAIS, PFC, Air Forces

Husband of Inez Guidry Callais of Plaquemine and father of Dianne Inez Callais. He was born Sept. 18, 1911, the son of Albert A. and May Hebert Callais of Plaquemine, and entered the Army Air Forces Dec. 26, 1942, at Lafayette. He went to Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, for basic training and technical school and to Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, as technician in the Aircraft Laboratory. He served at Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas, where he attended the Technical School, Aircraft, and at Ephrata Army Air Base, Ephrata, Wash., and Santa Maria Army Air Base, Santa Maria, Calif., in aircraft fabrication. He has the Air Crewman's Badge and a Presidential Unit Commendation and was granted his honorable discharge at Barksdale Field, Shreveport, on Dec. 13, 1945.

⑭ ANDREW G. GUIDRY, BM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Nick Guidry of Plaquemine, Route 1. He was born Nov. 6, 1922, and attended Plaquemine High School. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve on May 9, 1941, at New Orleans. He served with the USS Louisville for three years and with the USS Douglas H. Fox DD 779 for one and a half years, in the Pacific, the Bering Sea, the Indian Ocean, the China Sea, the North Pacific and the Coral Sea. He was assigned to duty on a five-inch 25-caliber gun and on a five-inch 38-caliber gun. He was on combat in the first raid on the Marshalls, Salamau and Lae in New Guinea, the bombardment of Kiska, the capture of Guadalcanal, the capture of Attu-Kiska, Namur, Roi, Kwajalein, Engebi and Eniwetok in the Marshalls, the raids on Palau, Yap, Wolei, Satiwan, Truk, Ponape, Kusaie, Halamahera and Hollandia in New Guinea, Saipan, Tinian and Guam in the Marianas, and the capture of Okinawa.

⑮ CYRIL JOSEPH GUIDRY, Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Aline Guidry and the late Nick Guidry, Route 1, Plaquemine. He was born April 19, 1915, and attended St. John's School and Plaquemine High School. He was an operator for the Solvay Processing Company prior to entering the Army in the Infantry on July 9, 1941, at Camp Livingston. He was assigned to Fort Bragg, N. C., for garrison duty and Gunnery School. Staff Sergeant Guidry embarked for the European Theater on Sept. 26, 1942, going to Belfast, North Ireland. He served in Algeria, French Morocco, Tunisia and Sicily, at Winchester, England, and in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes and Central Europe. His major battles include El Guettar, the Sedjenane Valley, Troina, Cherbourg, Normandy, St. Lo and the Ardennes with the famed AAA-O Regiment, Ninth Infantry Division. He has the Purple Heart for wounds Oct. 10, 1944, presented at the 103rd General Hospital, Andover, England, Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster, EAMETO Ribbon with Campaign Stars and Bronze Arrowhead, Good Conduct and American Defense Service Ribbons.

⑯ CHARLES F. GUIDRY, Corporal, Air Forces

Son of Mrs. Nick Guidry, Route 1, Plaquemine. He was born May 23, 1916, and attended Plaquemine High School. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to entering the Army Air Forces on Oct. 15, 1942. After training in the Continental United States, Corporal Guidry embarked for overseas duty in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations and was stationed in the Mariana Islands. He served in the Pacific area throughout his term of foreign duty with the Army Air Forces. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge on points under the demobilization system at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, on Nov. 25, 1945, after more than three years of faithful and unselfish service with the Army Air Forces.

⑰ RAMON FRANCIS EDWARD CARRERAS, Staff Sergeant, Air Forces

Husband of Jean Olive Delz Carreras, 901 Bristol Hotel, Houston, Texas, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Carreras of Rosedale. He was born Sept. 3, 1921, and attended Shady Grove High School. Entering the Army Air Forces Oct. 2, 1940, he served at Barksdale Field as parachute rigger and in repair work, then went to Davis-Monthan Field, Tucson, Ariz., and Muroc Bomber Base, Calif., in the same capacity. From Esler Field he embarked from Fort Dix, N. J., on Sept. 26, 1942, for England. He served in French Northwest Africa, Tunisia, Sicily and Italy as parachute rigger and repairman. He made a second tour of overseas duty March 17, 1945, to Italy. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Algeria, French Morocco, Naples-Foggia and Rome-Arno, and has the Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal. He was also at Dow Field, Bangor, Maine, Washington National Airport, D. C., and Camp Shelby, Miss., where he was honorably discharged Sept. 18, 1945.

⑱ C. ROLAND DARDENNE, Army Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Dardenne of Rosedale, Iberville Parish. He was born Sept. 16, 1926, and is a graduate of Shady Grove High School, having been a student prior to his induction into the Army Air Forces at Camp Chaffee, Ark., on March 19, 1945. He trained at Camp Chaffee and at Keesler Field, Biloxi, Miss., at Williams Field, Chandler, Ariz., at Amarillo Army Air Field, Amarillo, Texas, and at Kearns Army Air Base, Kearns, Utah. He was continuing to serve with the Army Air Forces following the cessation of hostilities on the world battlefronts and the capitulation of the nation's enemies.

⑲ EDWARD S. CARRERAS, S/Sgt., Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Carreras of Rosedale. He was born Nov. 14, 1922, and attended Shady Grove High School. Entering the Army Air Forces on Dec. 22, 1941, at Camp Shelby, Miss., he received basic training at Keesler Field, Miss., and attended Airplane Mechanics' School there. He went to Santa Monica, Calif., for school at Douglas Aircraft and to Drew Field, Tampa, Fla., as an airplane mechanic. He trained for overseas duty at Greensboro, N. C., prior to embarking from Camp Kilmer on Nov. 31, 1944, for Iceland, where he served as crew chief. Returning to the States, he went from Camp Shelby to San Antonio Air Base where he was reassigned to Kelly Field as crew chief, and served in the same capacity at Orlando Army Air Field, Fla. He has the Good Conduct and Victory Medals, American Theater and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbons. He was honorably discharged at Barksdale Field Dec. 4, 1945.

⑳ JOSEPH E. CARRERAS, Lieutenant, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Carreras of Rosedale. He was born Nov. 27, 1919, and attended Shady Grove High School. Enlisting in the Army Feb. 2, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, he served at Camp Polk and at Camp Coxcomb, Calif., with the Field Artillery. He went to San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center as an aviation cadet and received pre-flight training at Ellington Field, Texas, gunnery at Laredo Army Air Base, Texas, and advanced bombardier training at San Angelo Army Air Field, San Angelo, Texas. At Sioux City Army Air Base, Iowa, he served as bombardier on a B-17 aircraft, then went to Biggs Field, Texas, as bombardier on a B-29. For the remainder of his period of military duty with the AAF he served as a B-29 bombardier at Clovis Army Air Base, New Mexico. He was released from active duty and entered the Officer Reserve Corps at Randolph Field, Texas, on Dec. 2, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① John M. Wright

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Perkins Wright, Jackson, La. He was born Nov. 27, 1915, attended McKowen High School, and was an automobile mechanic prior to entering the service. Inducted March 10, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, he received his training at Camp Claiborne, La., and at Fort Bragg, N. C. On April 29, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater, where he served as supply sergeant with the Airborne Engineers in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Ireland, England, France, Belgium and Germany. Sergeant Wright participated in the campaigns of Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Normandy, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe; and he has the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the Glider Badge. He was honorably discharged Sept. 26, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

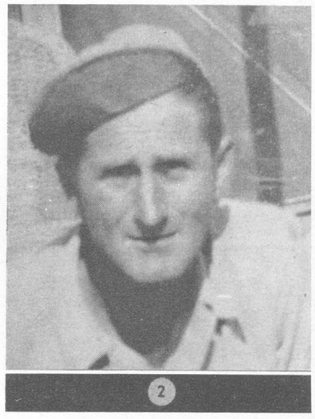


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② John Franklin Keller

Sergeant, Air Forces

Husband of Mrs. Rema Lee Easley Keller of Jackson and son of Mr. and Mrs. George Griffith Keller. He was born Sept. 13, 1907, and is a graduate of W. R. McKowen High School. Entering the Army Air Forces on Dec. 15, 1942, at New Orleans, he went to Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, as a basic trainee and served at Bowman Field, Ky., and Baer Field, Fort Wayne, Ind., assigned to duty with the Transportation Corps. On July 27, 1943, Sergeant Keller went to the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations. He served as an operator of heavy equipment at airfields in India, and underwent two bombing raids by the enemy. He has the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and two Bronze Stars. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Oct. 29, 1945, on his return to the States.



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③ Preston A. Richardson, Jr.

SP (Y) First Class, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Preston A. Richardson of Clinton. He was born Aug. 17, 1919, and attended Clinton High School. He was a member of the Louisiana State Police and the Department of Public Welfare prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on Dec. 17, 1941, at New Orleans. He served at the United States Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Va., and at the United States Naval Training Station, Newport, R. I., assigned to duty as control tower operator. He served overseas at the U. S. Naval Air Station, Port Lyautey, French Morocco. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, and was granted his honorable discharge at the Naval Air Station in New Orleans on Dec. 19, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Richard Chovin Dudley

Major, Infantry, AUS

Husband of Carlette Hardesty Dudley, 3139 Sycamore Drive, Baton Rouge, and father of Jane Huff Dudley. He was born April 21, 1907, the son of Richard Chovin and Eva Huff Dudley of Jackson, East Feliciana Parish. He is a graduate of McKowen High School, Jackson, and of Louisiana State University, where he received his degree in civil engineering in 1930. He was Road Design Engineer, Department of Highways, State of Louisiana, at the time of his entering the Army April 15, 1942, at New Orleans Port of Embarkation, and served at Camp Plauche, New Orleans, as Post Engineer and later as Engineer officer, Unit Training Center. On May 30, 1944, Major Dudley went to Glasgow, Scotland, and served at Southampton, England, as Embarkation Staff officer. In Paris, France, he was assigned to duty first as an officer with the Inland Waterways Division, Transportation Corps, later with G-4, Seine Section. Returning to the States, he was placed on inactive status (ORC) at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Dec. 23, 1945.

② John Chauncey Carpenter, Jr.

First Lieutenant, Infantry, AUS

Husband of Sarah Powell Carpenter, 1513 Pope Avenue, Augusta, Ga., and son of Mr. and Mrs. John Chauncey Carpenter of Route 2, Jackson. He attended Norwood High School and Louisiana State University, entering the Army of the United States in the Infantry on June 25, 1942, at Baton Rouge. Lieutenant Carpenter served at Camp Wheeler, Macon, Ga., at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga., at Camp Blanding, Starke, Fla., and at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Miss. He embarked for the European Theater on September 9, 1944, and served in England, France, Germany and Belgium. He was in combat in the Campaign of the Rhineland and was wounded in action, being presented the Purple Heart on May 16, 1945, at Finney General Hospital, Thomasville, Ga. He was also awarded the Combat Infantry Badge and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star. First Lieutenant Carpenter was granted his release from active duty on June 2, 1946, at Kennedy General Hospital in Memphis, Tenn.

③ Homer Quarles Appleby

Captain, MC, AUS

Son of Mrs. Homer Appleby of Slaughter, East Feliciana Parish. He was born Oct. 18, 1919, and attended Zachary High School at Zachary and Louisiana State University, where he received his B. S. degree in 1940. He attended Tulane University of Louisiana Medical School, New Orleans, where he received his M. D. degree in 1944, and interned at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. Entering the Army in the Medical Corps Jan. 4, 1944, at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., he served at the Medical Field Service School at Carlisle Barracks as medical officer and went to Mason General Hospital, Brentwood, Long Island, New York, in the same capacity. He also served as medical officer at Convalescent Hospital, Camp Edwards, Mass., and at the General Dispensary, Headquarters First Service Command, Boston, Mass. Captain Appleby went to Honolulu, T. H., on March 30, 1946, and served with the 332nd Station Hospital at Noumea, New Caledonia, as medical officer. He was still on active duty in that capacity in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations.

④ Guilford Lary McCrea

Tec/5, QMC, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. George S. McCrea of Jackson. He was born Sept. 11, 1919. A graduate of W. R. McKowen High School at Jackson, he was a dairy farmer by occupation prior to entering the Army of the United States in the Quartermaster Corps on June 17, 1941, at Camp Livingston. He was assigned to Fort Francis G. Warren, Cheyenne, Wyo., and to Camp Crowder, Neosho, Mo., where he was assigned to duty with the motor pool. On March 16, 1944, he embarked for the Aleutian Islands where he served at Uniak, Attu, with the motor pool. He has the American Defense Service Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the Victory Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, on Dec. 12, 1945.

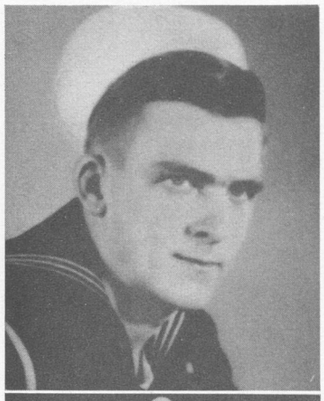
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Elbert Poole McQueen, Jr.

Seaman First Class, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Elbert Poole McQueen of Jackson. He was born Aug. 18, 1926, and attended McKowen High School, Jackson. He was with Badger Construction Company, Baton Rouge, prior to induction into the United States Naval Reserve Nov. 16, 1943, at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, where he received recruit training. In the Pacific area he attended Landing Craft School Pacific at Waimanalo Amphibious Training Base and served with the USS War Hawk AP 168 and USS LCI G 470. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge April 26, 1946, at New Orleans.



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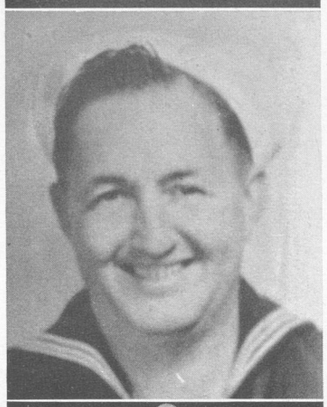


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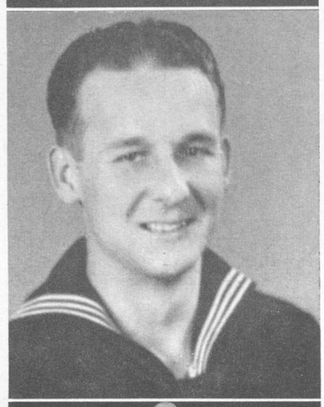
② Charles E. Villarreal

Sergeant, Army of U. S.

Husband of Mildred Beauchamp Villarreal of Clinton and father of Carolyn Sue Villarreal. He was born July 12, 1920, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Villarreal, 336 North Twenty-Sixth Street, Baton Rouge. He attended Magnolia School, University High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the Army of the United States on March 23, 1944, at Camp Beauregard, he served at Camp Plauche, New Orleans, as a basic trainee with the Transportation Corps. On Aug. 11, 1944, he served at Fontainebleau and Rheims, France, as Railway Traffic Officer. He fought in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on Jan. 9, 1946.



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③ James Marion Norsworthy, Jr.

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Coast Guard

Husband of Mae Aline Norsworthy of Jackson and son of Mr. and Mrs. James Marion Norsworthy of Jackson. He was born Oct. 26, 1913, attended McKowen High School at Jackson, and was engaged in the occupation of dairy farming prior to entering the U. S. Coast Guard July 30, 1942, at New Orleans. He attended boot camp at Camp Harahan, New Orleans, and was stationed at the ports of Baton Rouge and New Orleans throughout his period of service. He served on five Coast Guard boats and also in general port security duty. He was granted his honorable discharge Sept. 15, 1945, at the United States Coast Guard Separation Center, New Orleans.

④ Walthal Burton Allen

PhM 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Georgie C. Allen of Jackson. He was born May 29, 1920, and attended Greensburg High School and McKowen High School, Jackson. On Feb. 27, 1942, he entered the United States Naval Reserve at New Orleans and served at the U. S. Naval Hospital at Pensacola, Fla. He was assigned to duty at the Sub Repair Base in San Diego, Calif., and the Advanced Training Base, Port Hueneme, Calif. On Nov. 22, 1943, he embarked for the Naval Air Station at Barber's Point, Hawaii, to prepare with Acorn 20 for the Invasion of the Marshall Islands. He was in combat in the Campaign for the Marshall Islands and served at the Naval Air Base (Navy 3234) on Majuro Atoll. He was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans at the Naval Personnel Separation Center on Oct. 19. 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Julian Dupree Kent

② Royal J. Lanoue

③ Martin A. Schmit

④ Cecil P. Dawson

⑤ Kenneth Ray Buhler

⑥ John Verbois Manning

⑦ Alton Anderson

⑧ Warren Eugene Marcum

⑨ Carl Anderson

⑩ Roy Anderson

⑪ Miles Curtis Mitchener

⑫ Moody L. Anderson

⑬ Otis Paxton

⑭ Nelson Paxton

⑮ Hause Paxton

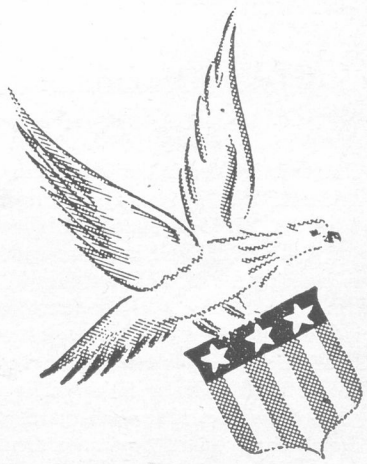
⑯ Russell Rene Perry

⑰ James C. Parker

⑱ John Wesley Parker

⑲ Sidney Isaac James

⑳ Shade Myrick Parker



① JULIAN DUPREE KENT, Sgt., U. S. Army Air Force

Husband of Lois Ricks Kent and father of Julian Dupree Kent, Jr., of Jackson, La. He was born Dec. 17, 1921, and attended Louisiana State University and Baton Rouge Business College. He was a bookkeeper prior to his induction Feb. 8, 1943. He received his training at the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center, Mustang Field, Okla., Sheppard Field, Texas, and Drew Field, Fla. On October 21, 1943, he embarked for England, and he served in England, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Holland and Germany, assigned to the Ninth Air Force. Sergeant Kent participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe and Ardennes. He has the European Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, five Bronze Battle Stars and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged Nov. 18, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

② ROYAL J. LANOUE, Tec/5, U. S. Army

Husband of Jane Wood Lanoue of Ethel and father of Roy Gordon Lanoue. He was born Oct. 11, 1915, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Lanoue of Scotlandville, and attended Baker High School. He was with a service station prior to entering the Army in the 865th Engineers Feb. 8, 1943, at New Orleans. He served at Camp Beauregard, St. Petersburg, Fla., Salt Lake City, Utah, and Boise, Idaho, as a mechanic in the Aviation Engineers. On Oct. 23, 1943, he embarked for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. He served at Townsville, Australia, Finschafen, New Guinea, Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, and Tacloban, Leyte, Philippine Islands. He served at Cebu City, Cebu, P. I., at Del Monte, Mindanao, P. I., and other points as a mechanic repairing and testing vehicles. He fought in the Campaigns of New Guinea and the Southern Philippines. He has the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge Dec. 27, 1945, at Camp Fannin, Texas.

③ MARTIN A. SCHMIT, Parachute Infantry

Fought with the famed 101st Airborne Division through Belgium, France, Germany and Austria. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Rock Gilbert Schmit of Jackson, he was born Sept. 17, 1925, and attended Istrouma High School, Baton Rouge, and Julius Freyhan High School, St. Francisville. He was engaged in farming prior to entering the Parachute Infantry on June 6, 1944, at Camp Beauregard. He received basic training at Camp Roberts, Calif., and advanced paratrooper training at Fort Benning, Ga. On March 6, 1945, he went to LeHavre, France, from which he served in France, Austria, Germany and the Azores, continuing to serve with the Army of Occupation as an honor guard at headquarters in Frankfurt. He was in combat on the Rhine and in Central Europe and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon, the Victory Ribbon, and the Army of Occupation Ribbon. He also has the Presidential Unit Citation and the Belgian Croix de Guerre.

④ CECIL P. DAWSON, Corporal, Paratroops

Husband of Margaret Law Dawson of Zachary and son of Mrs. Rock Gilbert Schmit of Jackson. He was born June 12, 1918, and attended Istrouma High School. He was in construction work prior to entering the Army in the Parachute Infantry Feb. 3, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He went to Camp Wheeler, Ga., for basic infantry training and to Fort Benning for Parachute Infantry training. He received advanced parachute and infantry training at Fort Bragg, N. C., prior to going overseas Oct. 6, 1942, to Glasgow, Scotland. After staging for invasion in England he served in Africa, Sicily and Italy, and was in combat in Africa and Italy and the raiding of four islands off the coast of Italy in which 117 German officers and much materiel were captured. He was one of 50 paratroopers cited by General Mark Clark and the Fifth Army, and one of a battalion cited by the Fifth Army. He has the Purple Heart for wounds received at Venafro, Italy, Nov. 18, 1942, the EAMETO Ribbon with Campaign Stars, and Good Conduct Ribbon.

⑤ KENNETH RAY BUHLER, Corporal, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Buhler of Slaughter. He was born April 9, 1927, and attended Slaughter High School, Baton Rouge Trades School (Aeronautics), and Baton Rouge Flying School. Entering the Army Air Forces April 26, 1945, he served at Camp Chaffee, Ark., Sheppard Field, Texas, Lowry Field, Denver, Colo., Clerk-Typist School, Berry Field, Tenn., and Flight Traffic Clerk School, Fort Dix, N. J. He was assigned to Greensboro, N. C., AAF Replacement Center, and Hamilton Field, Calif., from which he embarked in February, 1945, for Hickam Field, Territory of Hawaii. He served as chief clerk at Hickam Field and flight traffic clerk on Johnson Island, Kwajalein, Guam, Saipan, in China, the Philippines, Siam, and India, flying supplies throughout the Pacific area. He has the Asiatic-Pacific and American Theater and Army of Occupation Ribbons, Victory and Good Conduct Medals and reenlisted in the Regular Army to Jan. 13, 1947.

⑥ JOHN VERBOIS MANNING, Cpl., Signal Corps, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Buhler of Slaughter. He was born March 1, 1920, and attended Slaughter High School and Baton Rouge Business College. He was a railroad clerk prior to entering the Army July 6, 1942, at Baton Rouge. From Camp Beauregard he went to Camp Crowder, Mo., Signal Corps School, and Midland Radio School, Kansas City, Mo., and Camp Beale, Calif. Going to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Jan. 23, 1943, he served in New Caledonia, Bougainville (transmitter attendant), Brisbane, Australia (Signal Maintenance, Army Headquarters, teletype), and Saipan and Ie Shima (signal maintenance). He was in combat in the Second Battle for Bougainville, on Ie Shima, and against the Japanese home islands. He saw two years, ten months and sixteen days of foreign service and has the APTO Ribbon (two stars), Good Conduct and Victory Ribbons, one Service Stripe and Five Overseas Service Bars.

⑦ ALTON ANDERSON, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Anderson of Ethel. He was born July 10, 1925, and attended Ethel High School. He was engaged in farming at the time of his induction into the Army of the United States at New Orleans on Dec. 19, 1944. He served at Camp Chaffee, Ark., Camp Fannin, Texas, and Fort George G. Meade, Md., assigned to duty with the Infantry, and embarked on May 21, 1945, for Luzon in the Philippine Islands. He fought in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and the Philippine Liberation with the 43rd Infantry Division in the Philippines. He went to Japan with the Army of Occupation, assigned to duty with the 12th Cavalry for occupation service. He was continuing to serve with the Army of Occupation in Japan.

⑧ WARREN EUGENE MARCUM, First Lieut., Infantry

Husband of Ruth Anderson Marcum of Ethel and son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Marcum, RFD 5, Springfield, Ohio. He entered the Ohio National Guard in the Infantry on May 19, 1939, at Springfield, and served at Camp Shelby (instructor, Infantry Tactics), and Fort Benning, Ga., Officer Candidate School, Parachute School and Parachute Operation School. He went to Alliance, Neb., Camp Howze, Texas, and Camp Fannin, Texas, as instructor in infantry tactics, and to Camp Hood, Texas, as instructor in pioneer tactics. On July 20, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater and served in Great Britain, Northern France and Germany as infantry unit commander. He was in combat in the campaigns of Northern France and Germany and has the Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal and European Theater Ribbon with Campaign Stars. He was granted a medical retirement Sept. 13, 1945, at Percy Jones Hospital Center.

⑨ CARL ANDERSON, Sergeant, FA, AUS

He was born Oct. 18, 1914. He was a pipefitter for Standard Oil Company prior to entering the Army on April 4, 1941. Sergeant Anderson served at Camp Wheeler, Ga., with a medical detachment and at Fort Bragg, N. C., Fort Riley, Kan., Camp McCoy, Wis., and Camp Croft, S. C., with Field Artillery units. On July 15, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater where he served in Northern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe assigned to duty with the Field Artillery. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the Bronze Star Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Ribbon and the Victory Medal. He was discharged Oct. 23, 1945.

⑩ ROY ANDERSON, Staff Sergeant, AAA, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Anderson of Ethel. He was born May 23, 1918, and attended Ethel High School and Louisiana State University. He was an electrician helper for E. I. DuPont de Nemours prior to his induction into the Army on March 24, 1941. Sergeant Anderson served with the Anti-Aircraft Artillery at Fort Bragg, N. C., as communications chief and embarked Sept. 26, 1944, for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations where he served in New Guinea and in Luzon, Philippine Islands, as communications chief. He has the American Defense Service Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Campaign Star, the Good Conduct Medal, the Victory Medal, and the Purple Heart, awarded for wounds received in the heavy fighting at Bani, Luzon, in the Philippines. Discharged Dec. 8, 1945.

⑪ MILES CURTIS MITCHENER, U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Mitchener of Baton Rouge, La. He was born Sept. 23, 1916, in Pexico, Mo., and moved to Louisiana in 1920. He attended Catholic High School in Baton Rouge, where he was a member of the softball team. He entered the Coast Guard Aug. 17, 1942, and received his boot training at New Orleans, La. Miles is the husband of Thelma A. Mitchener and father of Curtis A. Mitchener of Baton Rouge, La.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑫ MOODY L. ANDERSON, Sergeant, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Anderson of Ethel. He was born May 23, 1921, and attended Ethel High School, going to Baton Rouge Business College. He served as a bookkeeper until his induction into the Army Air Forces on July 21, 1942, at New Orleans. Sergeant Anderson served at Fort Logan, Colo., Childress Field, Texas, Harlingen Army Air Field, Texas, Keesler Field, Biloxi, Miss., Atlantic City, N. J., and State College, Miss. On Dec. 8, 1942, he embarked for Trinidad, British West Indies, where he was assigned to duty as stock clerk, serving in this capacity throughout his overseas duty. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal, and was granted his honorable discharge on points at Ellington Field, Texas, on Nov. 14, 1945.

⑬ OTIS PAXTON, Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Paxton of Slaughter, La., was born May 29, 1916. He received his education at the public schools in Slaughter and entered the U. S. Army April 4, 1941.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑭ NELSON PAXTON, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Paxton of Slaughter, La. He was born June 27, 1922, and attended the public schools in Slaughter. Upon completion of his education, he entered the armed forces Aug. 4, 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑮ HAUSE PAXTON, U. S. Marines

He was born Aug. 25, 1917, the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Paxton of Slaughter, La. He received his education at the public schools in Slaughter and entered the U. S. Marine Corps in August, 1937.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑯ RUSSELL RENE PERRY, ABM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Rose Ina Wood Perry and father of Russell Rene Perry, Jr., of Ethel, La. He was born June 28, 1918, attended Ethel High School, and was an automobile mechanic prior to entering the service. He was inducted June 16, 1944, at New Orleans, and received his training at NTS, San Diego, Calif., NATTC, Norman, Okla., R/S NYD, Philadelphia, Pa., and was assigned to the USS Salerno Bay, CUE 110. He embarked for overseas on May 19, 1945, and he served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. He was honorably discharged Jan. 24, 1946. He is the son of Mrs. Charles C. Perry, Ethel, La.

⑰ JAMES C. PARKER, Corporal, Air Forces

Husband of Vivian Schwerly Parker of Jackson and son of James Burton and Elvira Smith Wooten Parker of Jackson. He was born March 17, 1917, and attended Singleton High School. He was engaged in farming prior to his induction into the Army of the United States in 1939 at New Orleans. Corporal Parker served at the motor camp in Camp Blanding, Fla., and Fort Benning, Ga., then transferred to the Army Air Forces with which he went to New Guinea in March, 1945. He served in work on planes in New Guinea and also in the Philippine Islands and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Fannin, Texas, in January, 1946.

⑱ JOHN WESLEY PARKER, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Myrtis Newson Parker of Jackson, East Feliciana Parish, and son of James Burton and Elvira Smith Wooten Parker of Jackson. He was born March 29, 1926, and attended Norwood High School. He was engaged in farming and was employed by East Louisiana State Hospital prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on June 15, 1944, at New Orleans. From the United States Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., he went to the Hawaiian Islands from which he served throughout his period of overseas duty. He was granted his honorable discharge at the Naval Personnel Separation Center, Naval Air Station, in New Orleans, on March 3, 1946.

⑲ SIDNEY ISAAC JAMES, Seaman 1/C, USNR

Husband of Pauline Parker James, Norwood, East Feliciana, and father of Juanita James. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac James of Norwood, he attended Norwood High School and was employed at the saw mill at East Louisiana State Hospital. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on Oct. 20, 1944, at New Orleans, he served at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., for recruit training, then embarked for the South Pacific. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, serving as seaman first class with the Pacific Fleet. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans, in February, 1946.

⑳ SHADE MYRICK PARKER, Sergeant, MD, AUS

Husband of Evelyn Ray Parker of Springfield, Ill., and son of James Benton and Eloise Smith Wooten Parker of Jackson. He was born Jan. 18, 1921, and attended Singleton High School. He was engaged in farming until his induction into the Army of the United States, Medical Department, on Oct. 1, 1944, at New Orleans. He served at Camp Robinson, Ark., and Camp Atterbury, Ind., then went overseas to serve with the Medical Department in the European Theater of Operations. Returning to the States, he was honorably discharged Feb. 26, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Miss.





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① Thomas Percy Dawson

PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Dawson of Jackson, La., he was born Jan. 6, 1922. Thomas attended McKowen High School. Prior to his services with the Army he was employed as a clerk at Louisiana State Hospital. He entered the armed forces Nov. 23, 1942, and was assigned to Fort Riley, Kan., later being sent to a desert training center in California. He departed in April, 1944, for Hawaii where he served for six months. PFC Dawson was then sent to Leyte and participated in the invasion. He was killed in action on Okinawa May 3, 1945. The Purple Heart was posthumously awarded his sister, Miss Louise Dawson.

② Jesse Frank Dawson

T/5, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Walter Dawson of Jackson, La., and husband of Olinda Domino Dawson, he was born Oct. 12, 1921, and attended McKowen High School. Entering the service Sept. 16, 1942, Jesse was assigned to Fort Belvoir, Va., for training, later being sent to Coyne Electrical School, Chicago, Ill., and Motor Generator Repair School, Westover Field, Mass. He departed June 8, 1943, for overseas where he participated in the fighting of New Guinea, Southern Philippines and Ryukyus Group. Dawson was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, two Meritorious Unit Citations, the American Theater Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. After more than three years of faithful service to his country he was discharged Jan. 14, 1946.

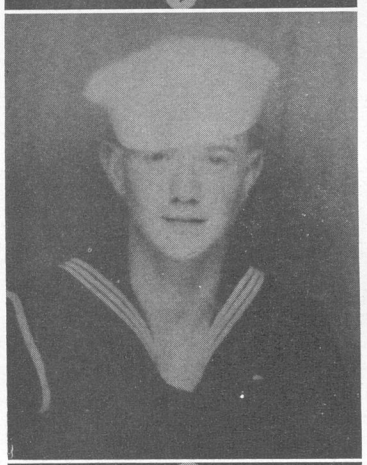
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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4

① Nehemiah Livingston Palmer, Jr.

PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Nehemiah Livingston Palmer of Clinton, La., and husband of Winnie Wilhelmina Palmer of Jackson, La., he was born May 31, 1922. Palmer attended McKowen High School. Entering the service Jan. 13, 1941, he was trained as a paratrooper at Ft. Benning, Ga., and Camp McCall, N. C. Palmer departed Feb. 6, 1944, for overseas where he served with the Paratroopers in the Invasion of Normandy, France, Holland, Battle of Carentan, France, Battle of Bastogne, Belgium, the invasion and occupation of Germany and Austria. He was a member of the 501st Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. PFC Palmer was awarded the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with four Battle Stars, and one Bronze Arrowhead, the French and Belgium Croix de Guerre, Presidential Citation with Cluster. He received the Purple Heart Oct. 20, 1944, in Cirencester, England. He was discharged Sept. 21, 1945.

② Carroll Hilton Norwood

Anti-Aircraft Artillery

Husband of Mrs. Oreka Wright Norwood of Jackson and son of Mr. and Mrs. James Saunders Norwood of Clinton. He was born May 19, 1907, and attended Clinton High School. He was an automobile mechanic at the time of his induction into the Army of the United States with the Coast Artillery Corps (Anti-Aircraft Artillery) on Nov. 11, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He served as Battalion Mechanic, AAA, going from Fort Bliss, Texas, to Camp Young, Calif., Camp Laguna, Ariz., and Richmond Army Air Base, Richmond, Va. Going to Camp Davis, N. C., he was assigned to duty as automobile inspector. He was continuing to serve in this capacity prior to receiving his honorable discharge from the Army of the United States.

③ Walter M. Wallace III

S 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of W. M. Wallace of Clinton, La. He received his boot training in San Diego, Calif., and was later stationed in Pearl Harbor for several months. Walter was a participant in the Atomic Bomb Test.

(N. M. I. A.)

④ Edward Temple Dwyer

PFC, Army Air Forces

Husband of Mrs. Cecil Caillouet Dwyer of St. Francisville and son of Edward and Vivian Temple Dwyer of St. Francisville. He was born May 26, 1918, and attended Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Louisiana State University, and the University of Mississippi. He was a lumberman prior to entering the Army Air Forces May 22, 1942, at Harding Field, Baton Rouge. He served at the Naval Air Stations at New Orleans, Jacksonville, Fla., and Corpus Christi, Texas, as an aviation cadet. He served with the Army Air Forces at San Antonio (aviation cadet), at Hondo, Texas, Navigation School and Wichita Falls, Texas as physical director, at Kearns, Utah, Overseas Replacement Depot, and New Orleans. Going to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater July 23, 1944, he served as physical director in the Campaigns of New Guinea, the Southern Philippines, Luzon, the Ryukyus, the Dutch East Indies, Okinawa and Japan. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Star, Victory Medal with two Stars, American Theater and Good Conduct Ribbons. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby Dec. 5, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① John Barnett, Jr.

② Clarence Harvell Powers

③ H. T. Jackson

④ Alex Gordon Wood

⑤ Melvin Allen Cook

⑥ Ellis Slocum Cook

⑦ Wicklif Andrew Cook

⑧ Wallace R. Chaney

⑨ John David Sobers, Jr.

⑩ Clarence F. Kennedy

⑪ Frank E. Kennedy

⑫ Russell Gordon Chaney

⑬ Clarence Rece Heirtzler, Jr.

⑭ Curtis Lionel Gremillion

⑮ Lanier Brashier

⑯ Nell Kathleen Rogers

⑰ Robert Rogers

⑱ James E. Day

⑲ Edgar C. Day

⑳ Malle Wesley Day



① JOHN BARNETT, JR., S/Sgt., Army Signal Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Barnett, Sr., of Baton Rouge, La. He was born Sept. 1, 1918, and attended Louisiana State University in 1940. Before entering the armed forces, he was in the State Forest Service at Hammond, La. John is the husband of Artie J. Barnett of Clinton, La. He entered the U. S. Army Dec. 22, 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)

② CLARENCE HARVELL POWERS, Cpl., Medical, Army

Husband of Ruby Hubbs Powers of Clinton and father of Clarence Harvell Powers, Jr. He was born Feb. 10, 1907, the son of Louis L. and Elizabeth Harvell Powers of Baton Rouge, and attended Clinton High School, Chamberlain Hunt Academy at Port Gibson, Miss., and Brantly Draughon Business College, Fort Worth, Texas. Entering the Army June 17, 1942, he served at Camp Barkeley, Texas, Fort Lewis, Wash., Camp Edwards, Mass., and Camp Beale, Calif., assigned to duty as medical non-commissioned officer 673 and non-commissioned officer 566. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Beale on Sept. 27, 1945.

③ H. T. JACKSON, EM 1/C, USNR

Husband of Josie Maxine Jackson and father of Judy Lee and H. T. Jackson, Jr., of Clinton. He was born March 6, 1920, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Jackson of Clinton, and attended Clinton High School. He worked as an electrician for five years prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on November 2, 1943, at New Orleans. He served at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., Nov. 2, 1943-March 1, 1944, and went to Camp Shoemaker, Calif., from which he embarked April 1, 1944, for Pearl Harbor with the USS YR 40. He was assigned to duty with a ship repair unit in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. Returning to the States, he was honorably discharged Dec. 16, 1945, at New Orleans.

④ ALEX GORDON WOOD, S/Sgt., Air Forces

Son of Mrs. Etta M. Wood of Ethel. He was born Aug. 26, 1920, and attended Ethel High School. He was engaged in farming prior to his induction into the Army Air Forces Aug. 21, 1942, at Baton Rouge. He served at Majors Field, Greenville, Texas, at Boca Raton Field, Fla., Keesler Field, Miss., Laredo AAF, Texas, and Hammer Field, Fresno, Calif., assigned to duty as aircraft mechanic and aerial gunner on B-24 Liberator bombers. On July 6, 1944, he went to the Southwest Pacific and served in the Netherlands East Indies and the Admiralty Islands as aerial engineer and gunner with the 13th Army Air Force (Bomber Barons). He was reported missing Nov. 1, 1944, after a mission over Alicante Airdrome, Negros Island, P. I., when his plane, damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire, plunged into Guimaras Strait. He was declared dead Nov. 2, 1945, and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart.

⑤ MELVIN ALLEN COOK, S/Sgt., U. S. Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Cook of Jackson, La. He was born Sept. 23, 1909, and attended the Ethel High School. Before entering the armed forces he was employed by the Louisiana State Highway Department. Melvin entered the Army Air Force April 12, 1941.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑥ ELLIS SLOCUM COOK, U. S. Army

He was born Aug. 3, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Cook of Jackson, La. He attended the Norwood High School and was employed by the State Highway Department before entering the armed forces. Ellis is the husband of Ann Noto Cook and father of Ellis Vahn Cook of Jackson. He entered the service July 8, 1941.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑦ WICKLIF ANDREW COOK, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Cook of Jackson, La., was born Dec. 12, 1912. He attended the Ethel High School and Natchitoches College. Before entering the armed forces, he worked for the Game Conservation Department. Wicklif is the husband of Cary Marie Cook of Wilson, La. He entered the U. S. Navy Oct. 26, 1941.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑧ WALLACE R. CHANEY, PFC, Military Police

He was born Sept. 25, 1920. He was a bus driver for the East Feliciana Parish School Board and was with Louisiana Highway Commission prior to entering the Army on July 7, 1942. He served at Camp Beauregard and at Camp Polk with the Military Police, then was assigned to duty as an MP at Mexia Internment Camp in Texas. He served at Fort Bliss, Texas, and Camp Lee, Va., with the Military Police at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., with the Corps of Engineers and Camp Maxey, Texas, with the Infantry. On April 1, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater transporting prisoners of war until he went into combat in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe as an infantryman with Company K, 18th Infantry Regiment, First Division. He has the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. Discharged Feb. 13, 1946.

⑨ JOHN DAVID SOBERS, JR., EM 2/C, USNR

Husband of Genevieve Ninneman Sobers of Slaughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. John David Sobers of Slaughter. Born Feb. 7, 1921, he attended Slaughter High School and worked as an electrician prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on May 12, 1944, at Birmingham, Ala. From the Recruit Training Command and U. S. Naval Training and Distribution Center at Norfolk, Va., and the Naval Training Center at Gulfport, Miss., he was assigned to duty with the USS Mendocino APA 100. Embarking for Balboa, Canal Zone, on Dec. 2, 1944, as electrician aboard the Mendocino APA 100, he served in Honolulu, Eniwetok and the Marshall Islands, and enemy-held Babelthaup. He fought in the Invasion of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines and of Okinawa Shima, and served on Saipan in the Mariana Islands, Maui, the Apra Hebrides, and Guam, Ulithi Atoll in the Carolines, at Legaspi on Luzon, P. I., and Yokohama, Tokyo and Yokosuka, Japan, and in Cristobal, C. Z. He has the Victory Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Star.

⑩ CLARENCE F. KENNEDY, Tec/4, C of E, AUS

Husband of Lois White Kennedy of Alexandria and son of Mrs. Clyde Faulkner of Gurley. He was born April 19, 1917, and attended Ethel High School. He was a carpenter prior to induction into the Army Oct. 28, 1943. He served with the Corps of Engineers at Camp Polk, Camp Barkeley, Texas, Camp Ibis, Calif., Camp Cooke, Calif., and Camp Kilmer, N. J. Embarking for the European Theater, he served in England, France, Belgium, Germany, Austria and Luxembourg, and was in combat in the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the European Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the American Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct and Victory Medals, and was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby Jan. 8, 1946.

⑪ FRANK E. KENNEDY, Sergeant, Army

Son of Mrs. Clyde Faulkner of Gurley. He was born Oct. 7, 1915, and attended Ethel High School. He was a carpenter prior to his induction into the Army of the United States on Feb. 7, 1942. He served at Camp Blanding, Fla., Camp Bowie, Texas, Camp Davis, N. C., and Camp Shelby, Miss. Embarking for the European Theater, he served in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany and fought in the Campaigns of Northern France and the Ardennes, in which he lost his life in combat in the Battle of the Belgian Bulge at Bastogne on Jan. 4, 1945. This gallant infantryman had the European Theater Ribbon with two Campaign Stars, the American Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for the wounds which cost his life in fighting for his country. He is interred at Gand Failly, France.

⑫ **RUSSELL GORDON CHANEY, Baker 3/C, U. S. Navy**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Kendrick Davis Chaney, Kent's Store. Born April 30, 1925, he attended Clinton High School and entered the United States Naval Reserve April 27, 1943, going to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, from which he served with the USS Pocomoke and the Navy V-12 Unit, Tulane. He served at Naval bases on New Guinea, Luzon, in the Philippines, at San Francisco and New Orleans. Embarking for the Southwest Pacific aboard a seaplane tender July 14, 1943, he returned to the States, then to New Guinea for the D-Day landing at Lingayen Gulf with the Occupation Forces. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon and Victory Ribbon, and was discharged May 16, 1946, at New Orleans.

⑬ **CLARENCE RECE HEIRTZLER, JR., ARM 3/C, U. S. Navy**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Rece Heirtzler of Jackson and Ethel. He was born July 13, 1926, and attended Ethel High School. He was a locomotive fireman prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve June 26, 1944, at Dallas, Texas. From the Naval Receiving Station at New Orleans he went to the U. S. Naval Air Station at Jacksonville, Fla., and the NATTC, Memphis, Tenn. He also served at the NAGS at Miami, Fla., VTB, OTU, U. S. Naval Air Station, Miami, Fla., and with CASU Five. He was also assigned to duty with Air Group 98 Detachment at the Naval Air Auxiliary Station, Oxnard, Calif., Faircen, Coronado Heights Annex, Naval Air Station, San Diego, Calif., the Naval Barracks at Orange, Texas, and T and TP, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. He was granted his honorable discharge July 5, 1946, at the Naval Personnel Separation Center, New Orleans.

⑭ **CURTIS LIONEL GREMILLION, Radarman 2/C, U. S. Navy**

Grandson of Mrs. A. C. Watson of Slaughter. He was born Feb. 26, 1924, and attended Slaughter High School and Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette. He was a musician prior to entering the United States Navy July 20, 1943, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., he went to the Destroyer Base at San Diego and the Mare Island Navy Yard near San Francisco. He was assigned to USS ATR 23, and served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations where he served as a radar operator and salvage diver. He also worked on tow and salvage operations in the Eleventh and Twelfth Naval Districts and served with a USO Dance Band. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge March 19, 1946, at New Orleans.

⑮ **LANIER BRASHIER, Tec/4, U. S. Army**

Son of Mrs. Clara Brashier of Ethel. He was born March 5, 1913, and was a dairyman and farmer prior to entering the Army of the United States Sept. 2, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned for training and duty to Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, and Camp Howze, Texas, and Camp Livingston, serving as a prison guard and cook. Sergeant Brashier went to New Caledonia May 5, 1944, and served on Guadalcanal in the Solomons and was in combat on Bougainville, and at Leyte in the Philippines. He fought on the beachhead at Cebu and in the Occupation of Japan with Company K, 132nd Infantry, Americal Division. He has one Service Stripe, three Overseas Service Bars, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Campaign Stars for the Northern Solomons and the Southern Philippines, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star and the Good Conduct and World War II Victory Ribbons. He was granted his honorable discharge Dec. 5, 1945, at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

⑯ **NELL KATHLEEN ROGERS, Lieutenant, U. S. Army**

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Guy Rogers of Norwood, La. She was born Jan. 31, 1922, and is a graduate of the Norwood High School. Nell entered the service July 15, 1943, and served with the 51st General Hospital in New Guinea and the Philippines. She rendered nursing care to all types of patients, planned daily schedules, maintained records and assisted the physician when necessary. She served overseas 21 months, has Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Service Star, American Theater Ribbon and the World War II Victory Medal. On Jan. 28, 1946, she received her honorable discharge from the service.

⑰ **ROBERT ROGERS, U. S. Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Guy Rogers of Norwood, La. He was born Aug. 26, 1905. Robert is the husband of Lesiarist Rogers. He entered the armed forces April 29, 1941.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑱ **JAMES E. DAY, Tec/4, Air Forces**

He was born June 30, 1917. He was a millwright with E. I. DuPont de Nemours Company prior to entering the Army Air Forces Aug. 4, 1942. Sergeant Day served at the AAF Replacement Training Center in St. Petersburg, Fla., at LeMoore Army Flying School, LeMoore, Calif., and at Basic Training Center No. 9 in Miami, Fla., where he was non-commissioned officer in charge of a training group and of the shipping and receiving of enlisted personnel, also a basic training instructor. He attended AAF Technical Training Schools at Truax Field, Madison, Wis. (Radio School)), Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill., and Scott Field, Ill. He was assigned to duty at Key Field, Meridian, Miss., as a radio mechanic in flight line maintenance. He has the American Theater Ribbon, World War II Victory Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. Discharged Nov. 18, 1945.

⑲ **EDGAR C. DAY, S 1/C, USNR**

Son of Mrs. Lena N. Day of Jackson, East Feliciana Parish. He was born Jan. 17, 1926, and attended McKowen High School at Jackson. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on Jan. 11, 1944, at New Orleans, he was assigned for recruit training to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego. In March, 1944, Seaman First Class Day embarked for the Pacific area with an LCS nd served at Kaui Amphibious Training Base in the Hawaiian Islands. He was assigned to Amphibious Training Command, Navy 152, Naval Amphibious Base on Tulagi, British Solomon Islands, as an operator of heavy equipment. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, and was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on Jan. 2, 1946.

⑳ **MALLE WESLEY DAY, Tec/4, Ordnance, AUS**

Son of Mrs. Lena N. Day of Jackson. He was born Jan. 18, 1920, and is a graduate of McKowen High School, Jackson. Entering the Army of the United States on Nov. 27, 1941, at Camp Livingston, he served at Fort Eustis, Va., Camp Tyson, Tenn., Barrage Balloon Training Center, Fort Custer, Mich., Military Police Training Center, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Camp Pickett, Va., with the Corps of Military Police. He served at the Mississippi Ordnance Plant and went to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater April 28, 1945, to Okinawa in the Ryukyus Group, serving there and also in Korea in Ordnance. He was in combat in the Campaign for Okinawa, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, the American Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was discharged Jan. 3, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Texas.

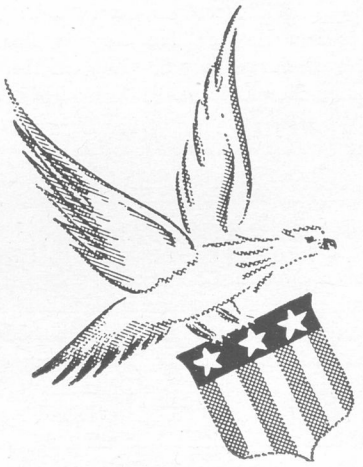
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Billy Kemp

Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Kemp of Slaughter, La., he was born March 16, 1922, and attended Slaughter High School. Entering the service Oct. 5, 1942, Kemp was assigned to Roswell Army Air Base, N. M., later being sent to San Antonio, Texas, where he began his training as a pilot. After graduation, Lieutenant Kemp was sent to the South Pacific as a P-47 fighter pilot. He participated in the fighting of the Mandated Islands, Air Offensive over Japan, Ryukyus Islands and China Offensive. Lieutenant Kemp holds the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters. He was discharged Jan. 3, 1946, after more than three years of faithful service to his country.

② James Evans Kemp

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William M. Kemp of Slaughter, La., he was born June 29, 1924, and attended Slaughter High School. Entering the service Sept. 25, 1943, Kemp was assigned to Sheppard Field, Texas, for training, later being sent to Kingman, Ariz., for gunnery school. He received overseas training at MacDill Field, Fla. Sergeant Kemp departed Oct. 25, 1944, for England and participated in the bitter fighting of the Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. He was awarded the Air Medal with five Oak Leaf Clusters and Presidential Group Citation. After more than two years of meritorious service he was discharged Oct. 17, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Emmette W. Beauchamp

Captain, U. S. Army

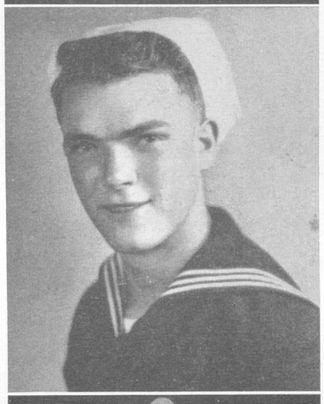
Husband of Mary Ann Conway Beauchamp and son of Mr. and Mrs. Emmette W. Beauchamp of Clinton, La., was born Feb. 13, 1919. He attended Louisiana State University. He entered service on Oct. 1, 1940, at Fort Benning, Ga., where he later became a battery commander and battalion reconnaissance officer. From there he was sent to Fort Sill, Okla. After completing his training he sailed for overseas and was sent to North Africa, Sicily, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He participated in the North African Campaign, Silician, Normandy, Central European and Rhineland. He is the holder of the Bronze Star, with Oak Leaf Cluster, Presidential Citation, Belgian Fourragere, European Theater of Operations Ribbon, American Defense Ribbon, Victory Ribbon and Pearl Harbor Ribbon. He is still a member of the U. S. Army.



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② Edwin M. Beauchamp

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Emmett W. Beauchamp, Sr., of Clinton, La. After attending school in Clinton he was employed by the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey before entering the Army on May 2, 1942, at Camp Shelby, Miss. He was first assigned to Keesler Field, Miss., where he received training as a special equipment operator. On March 12, 1943, he embarked for Italy and saw action in Italy, France and Germany. Sergeant Beauchamp is holder of the Presidential Citation and after serving his country unselfishly for more than three years he was discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Sept. 20, 1945.

③ Georgie Bankston

Coxswain, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Bankston of Jackson, La., he was born Jan. 17, 1927. He attended McKowen High School. Entering the service June 27, 1944, Bankston was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif. He left the States Nov. 28, 1944, aboard the USS Jerauld APA 174. He participated in the invasion of Okinawa. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Star, the American Theater Ribbon and the Victory Medal. Bankston is still serving with the U. S. Navy.

④ Thomas Bankston

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Henry Bankston and Delia Bankston, he was born June 19, 1915. He is the husband of Maxie Bankston and father of Tommie and Paul Bankston. He attended school at Mt. Herman and Franklinton, La. Bankston entered the Army Air Forces Oct. 15, 1942, and was assigned to Lake Charles, La., and Kearns, Utah. He departed Nov. 29, 1944, for India, where he served with the Air Transport Command as a driver, mechanic and construction machine operator. Sergeant Bankston was awarded the Driver's Medal, Mechanic Badge, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was honorably discharged March 3, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Arlington Davidson Wells

② Augustus B. Wells

③ William Harry Sistrunk

④ Ralph Bernard Sistrunk

⑤ Victor Hays Harvey, Sr.

⑥ James Abram Harvey

⑦ Charles Joseph Davis

⑧ Robert Wesley Floyd

⑨ Cecil Darrel Spillman

⑩ Sidney Paul Spillman

⑪ Joseph H. Hebert

⑫ Joseph Leo Neal

⑬ Johnnie Francis Gore, Jr.

⑭ James Cleveland Dedon

⑮ Charles Woodrow McLean

⑯ John P. Evans

⑰ Levy Chaney Calmes

⑱ Stanley Ray Calmes

⑲ Napoleon B. Calmes, Jr.

⑳ Edmond Calhoun Calmes



① ARLINGTON DAVIDSON WELLS, Staff Sgt., Army

Son of Mrs. Agnes D. Wells of Tunica. He was born June 22, 1918, and entered the Army July 19, 1942, at New Orleans, serving at Camp Beauregard, Sheppard Field, Texas, and Scott Field, Ill., Radio School. He served as radio operator with the 63rd Troop Carrier Squadron, 403rd Troop Carrier Group, at Alliance, Neb., Pope Field, N. C., and Baer Field, Ind. Going to New Caledonia Aug. 16, 1943, he served in the New Hebrides as radio operator at Espiritu Santo. He served at Sydney, Australia, as radio mechanic on detached service and in the East Indies (New Guinea), Biak Island, Leyte, P. I., and Nouemfoert as radio operator. He was in combat in the Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, the Southern Philippines, the Northern Solomons, the Western Pacific and Luzon, and has the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with six Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation, Good Conduct, and Victory Ribbons.

② AUGUSTUS B. WELLS, Corporal, ASF

Son of Mrs. Agnes D. Wells of Tunica. He was born Aug. 17, 1920, and attended Tunica and Julius Freyhand High Schools, St. Francisville. He was a student prior to induction into the Army Nov. 23, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Camp Bowie, Texas, as a basic trainee and also as a 35-millimeter projectionist, at Portland Army Air Base, Ore., with the Mail Detachment, and at Fort Lewis, Wash. He was assigned to duty at Barnes General Hospital, Vancouver, Wash., as a typist, at Camp Adair, Ore., as a 35-millimeter projectionist, at Camp Florence, Ariz., as a prisoner of war guard, and was at O'Reilly General Hospital as a patient. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal, and was discharged May 25, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

③ WILLIAM HARRY SISTRUNK, Staff Sgt., Air Forces

Husband of Lois Marie Weaver Sistrunk, St. Francisville, and son of Mr. and Mrs. William Alton Sistrunk. He was born Oct. 10, 1920, and attended Julius Freyhan High School prior to his entry into the AAF on Jan. 19, 1942, at Baton Rouge. He went to Lowry Field, Denver, Colo., for Armament School and served at Brookley Field, Mobile, Ala., as Armament Chief for the 27th Air Depot Group. From Camp Stoneman, Calif., he embarked Sept. 2, 1942, for Australia and served in the Pacific to Dec. 10, 1945. He served as Armament Chief, Aerial Gunner and Aircraft Inspector in Australia, Port Moresby in New Guinea, and the Philippine Islands, and was in combat in the New Guinea and Papuan Campaigns. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Star, the Distinguished Unit Badge, Victory Ribbon, one service stripe and six overseas bars. He re-enlisted on his discharge Dec. 19, 1945.

④ RALPH BERNARD SISTRUNK, EM, F 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Alton Sistrunk of Hardwood. He was born Oct. 2, 1926, and attended Julius Freyhan High School, St. Francisville, prior to entering the U. S. Naval Reserve Jan. 26, 1944, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, he went to the U. S. Naval Training School at St. Louis, Mo., the NTS in New York City, and the Naval Receiving Station, Shoemaker, Calif. He was also at the USN Submarine Base, New London, Conn. As electrician aboard the USS Picuda SS 382, he embarked March 21, 1945, for the Hawaiian Islands, and was assigned to Submarine Division 322, Midway Island, as electrician, overhauling submarines. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon and World War II Victory Ribbon, and was continuing to serve with the Naval Reserve after the cessation of hostilities.

⑤ VICTOR HAYS HARVEY, SR., U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Florence Lloyd Harvey of St. Francisville, La. He was born June 11, 1917, and attended the Julius Freyhan School. Victor is the husband of L. Hall Harvey and father of Victor Hays Harvey, Jr.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑥ JAMES ABRAM HARVEY, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Florence Lloyd Harvey of St. Francisville, La. He was born May 24, 1921. He attended the Julius Freyhan School and entered the armed forces in 1943.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑦ CHARLES JOSEPH DAVIS, Corporal, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Joseph Davis of St. Francisville. He was born Dec. 16, 1925, and attended Julius Freyhan High School. He worked as an airplane mechanic at Harding Field prior to entering the AAF on April 25, 1944. He served at Sheppard Field, Texas, Truax Field, Wis., where he attended Radio School, and Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill., for Electronics School. He studied radar at Boca Raton AAF, Fla., and served at Langley Field, Va., Seymour Field, N. C., and Camp Stoneman, Calif. On March 16, 1946, he embarked for the Philippine Islands and was stationed at Nichols Field near the City of Manila, assigned to duty as a radar man with the AAF. He had been discharged on Nov. 27, 1945, at Langley Field, and re-enlisted for one year prior to going overseas.

⑧ ROBERT WESLEY FLOYD, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Wanna Carter Floyd. He was born Aug. 14, 1922, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney M. Floyd of Tunica, and attended Tunica High School. He was engaged in farming prior to his induction into the Army Nov. 23, 1943, at New Orleans. Sergeant Floyd was assigned for training to Camp Roberts, Calif., Camp Barkeley, Camp Bowie and Camp Hood, Texas. He embarked Sept. 18, 1944, for the European Theater where he served in England, France and Germany as rifle squad leader responsible for a group of ten men in combat against the enemy in three major battles. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with Campaign Stars, and the Victory Ribbon. He was discharged Feb. 7, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑨ CECIL DARREL SPILLMAN, Technical Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Green D. Spillman. He was born Aug. 20, 1921, attended Julius Freyhan High School and Spencer Business College, and was employed in Senator Allen J. Ellender's office in Washington, D. C., prior to his induction Sept. 4, 1942. He received his training at Keesler Field, Miss., NCOIC Basic Training Center, Buckley Field, Colo., and AAF Eastern Technical Training Command, Greensboro, N. C. On March 17, 1945, he embarked for the European Theater of Operations, and he served in Paris, France, and Frankfurt, Germany, as classification specialist and administrative specialist. Sergeant Spillman has the European Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was discharged April 5, 1946.

⑩ SIDNEY PAUL SPILLMAN, Private, Army Air Force

Son of Greene Darrel and Essie Nicholls Spillman. He was born Dec. 1, 1922, attended Julius Freyhan High School, and was an assistant mail carrier prior to his induction Aug. 17, 1944. He took his basic training at Sheppard Field, Texas, went through gunnery school at Tyndall Field, Fla., and was in the midst of a basic mechanical course at Keesler Field, Miss., when the war ended in Europe. He then trained at Boeing B-29 School, Seattle, Wash., Kirtland Field, N. M., Smoky Hill Army Air Field, Kan., and though the war had ended by then, he re-enlisted to stay with his bomb group in Kansas. When the group broke up, he was sent to Greensboro, N. C., to await assignment for overseas duty. His 18-month re-enlistment will be ended July 7, 1947.

⑪ JOSEPH H. HEBERT, U. S. Naval Reserve

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Hebert of Bains. He was born Feb. 28, 1927, and attended Julius Freyhan High School, St. Francisville. He entered the U. S. Naval Reserve on June 5, 1944, at New Orleans and went to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego for recruit training. He attended yeoman school in San Diego for four months and at Oceanside, Calif., for six weeks. From Shoemaker, Calif., he embarked March 22, 1945, for Pearl Harbor. He served with the office of the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific, throughout his term of overseas duty and was still serving in that capacity after the cessation of hostilities in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. He was continuing to serve with Flag-Allowance, Cincpac, in the Pacific area.

⑫ JOSEPH LEO NEAL, Seaman 1/C, USNR

Husband of Mrs. Vinnie Mae Travis Neal and son of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Neal of St. Francisville. He was born Sept. 23, 1926, and attended Julius Freyhan High School. He operated a ferry between St. Francisville and Pointe Coupee Parish prior to entering the U. S. Navy on March 6, 1944, at Baton Rouge. Assigned to the United States Naval Training Center at San Diego, Calif., for training, he went from Camp Elliott, Calif., to join the USS Savo Island CVE 78, with which he served July 22, 1944-May 23, 1945, in the Pacific. He served at Guadalcanal, Pearl Harbor, Tongli, Palau, Leyte, Mindoro and Luzon (Philippine Islands), Ulithi, Guam, Okinawa, Adak and Honshu, Japan. He was in combat in the naval strikes on Palau, the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea, Lingayen Gulf on Leyte, Mindoro, Luzon and Okinawa. The Savo Island has credit for 25 enemy planes, one destroyer, one submarine and one cruiser. He has the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Stars, and the Victory Ribbon.

⑬ JOHNNIE FRANCIS GORE, JR., Sergeant, Air Forces

Husband of Mary Pourciau Gore and father of Agnes Mary Gore. He was born June 5, 1918, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Francis Gore of St. Francisville, and attended Julius Freyhan High School. He was in construction work and operated heavy machinery prior to entering the AAF Oct. 2, 1942, at New Orleans. He served at Camp Beauregard, Keesler Field, Miss., Delgado Trades School (AAF Maintenance Training), Cochran Field (aircraft maintenance, BT-13), Greenwood Army Air Field (aircraft maintenance crew chief, BT-13, BT-13A and BT-15), and Greensboro, N. C. On June 18, 1944, he embarked for Borinquen Field, Puerto Rico, as crew chief and engineer on A-17, OA-10A, B-18 and B-26 aircraft. With 300 hours air time, he has the American Theater and Good Conduct Medals, Victory Medal and AAF Air Crew Wings.

⑭ JAMES CLEVELAND DEDON, Tec/5, Army Air Forces

Son of Katherine Roth Dedon Gore and Jacob Dedon of St. Francisville. He was born Dec. 17, 1909, and attended Bolton and Julius Freyhan High Schools. He was in logging and construction work prior to his induction into the AAF March 11, 1942, at Alexandria. He served at Camp Beauregard, Fort Leonard and Fort Lawton, Seattle, Wash. He served in the Aleutians with Headquarters and Service Company, 807th Engineers Aviation Battalion and on Okinawa with the same unit in a repair shop and in heavy equipment. He served for 29 months in the Aleutians and for eight months in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations.

⑮ CHARLES WOODROW McLEAN, Corporal, U. S. Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wesley McLean of Darlington, La. He was born Sept. 18, 1919, and graduated from Greensburg High School in 1938. Inducted into the Air Corps April 9, 1941, he received his training at Orlando Air Base, Fla., Westover Field, Mass., U. S. Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, R. I., and Dover, Del. On Sept. 21, 1942, he embarked for Suez, Egypt, and he served in Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Sicily and Italy with the 315th Service Group. He then served in the China, Burma, India Theater. Corporal McLean participated in the campaigns at Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno and China. He has the European-African-Middle East Theaters of Operations Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Operations Medal, the American Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Sept. 12, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑯ JOHN P. EVANS, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Evans of Baton Rouge, La. He was born June 1, 1926, and attended the Gillsburg High School. John is the husband of Lugean Hyde Evans and father of Jennie Lou Evans. He entered the armed forces in June, 1944.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑰ LEVY CHANEY CALMES, MM 2/C, Coast Guard

Husband of Lurline Alleman Calmes and son of Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon B. Calmes of Weiss. He was born Oct. 5, 1920, and attended Pine Grove High School. He was a farmer and clerk by occupation prior to entering the U. S. Coast Guard on Sept. 29, 1941. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, New Orleans, he served aboard the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter Magnolia and at the Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Va. From the Manhattan Beach Training Station, New York, he served with the USS Alexandria. He was assigned to duty with the North Atlantic patrol going to Cuba, Haiti, South America, the Dominican Republic, Argentina, Newfoundland, Greenland and Iceland. He was in combat in the antisubmarine warfare and has the American Defense Service Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon. He was discharged at New Orleans on Sept. 29, 1945.

⑱ STANLEY RAY CALMES, United States Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Bonaparte Calmes of Weiss. He was born April 23, 1927, and attended Pine Grove High School and LSU at Baton Rouge. Entering the Army on Nov. 20, 1945, at New Orleans, he trained at the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark., and was continuing to serve with the Army of the United States in the Infantry.

⑲ NAPOLEON B. CALMES, JR., First Sergeant, Cavalry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon B. Calmes of Weiss. He was born May 3, 1919, and attended Pine Grove High School at Pine Grove and worked as a marble setter and was engaged in the occupation of farming. On June 18, 1941, he entered the Army in the Cavalry, and served at Fort Riley, Kan., Fort Clark, Texas (Advanced Cavalry Training), and Fort McIntosh (Communications School). On July 20, 1942, he embarked for New Caledonia. He served in New Caledonia, Australia, New Guinea, New Britain, Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, the Southern Philippines, and Luzon, and has the Bronze Star Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with five Bronze Campaign Stars, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on Aug. 21, 1945.

⑳ EDMOND CALHOUN CALMES, Sergeant, Air Forces

Born Oct. 12, 1917, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Bonaparte Calmes, he attended Pine Grove High School and was manager of Auto-Lec Store at Alexandria prior to his induction into the AAF Aug. 12, 1942. Sergeant Calmes went to Santa Ana, Calif., as an aviation cadet, then from Fresno Army Air Base, Calif., to AAF Technical Training Center in Los Angeles. He served at Greenwood, S. C., and Greenville, S. C., and Keesler Field, Miss., where he was assigned to a College Training Detachment, Buckhannon, W. Va. From Aviation Cadet Center, San Antonio, he went to Sioux Falls, S. D., for Radio School, and Yuma Army Air Base, Ariz., for Gunnery School. At Lincoln Army Air Base, Neb., he was assigned to a combat crew for training. He served at Boise, Idaho, in combat crew training (B-24 aircraft), and at Walla Walla Army Air Base, Wash., staging area. He was discharged Nov. 4, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① William Frances Sykes

ACMMH, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frances J. Sykes of Metcurrie, La., and husband of Dorothy Sykes of Pensacola, Fla. He was born Nov. 23, 1916. Sykes attended Audubon, McDonogh and Jefferson Schools. Entering the service September, 1935, at New Orleans, La., he chose the U. S. Navy as a career and saw service in Panama, Alaska, Hawaii and South America prior to the outbreak of war. During the war Sykes spent three months in the North Atlantic and 22 months in the South Pacific.



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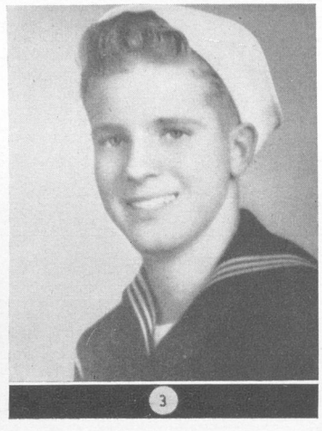
② Raleigh Anthony Suarez, Jr.

Lieutenant (jg), U. S. Navy

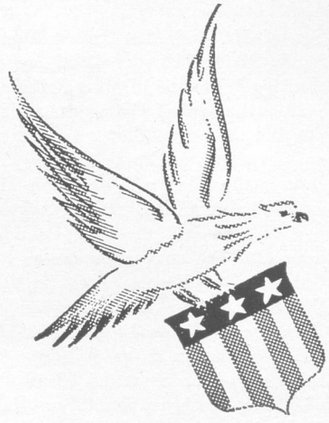
Raleigh A. Suarez, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Suarez, was born Jan. 2, 1925, and they reside in Plaquemine, La. He attended Plaquemine High School, LSU and Tulane University in New Orleans. He was inducted into the service Dec. 19, 1942, at New Orleans. From there he was sent to U. S. Naval Reserve Midshipman's School in New York City, then to Asbury N. J., Solomon, Md., and Boston, Mass. He embarked for overseas service in the Pacific Nov. 17, 1944. He served at Pearl Harbor, the Philippines, and participated in the invasion of Okinawa. After more than three years of unselfish service he was discharged June 6, 1946.



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③ Winans D. Lloyd, Jr.

ASK 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Winans D. Lloyd of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Aug. 21, 1925, and attended Baton Rouge High School. Entering the service July 29, 1943, he was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for training, later being sent to Alameda, Calif., Seattle and Whidbey Island, Wash., Lloyd has served aboard the USS Bunker Hill CV-17 since July 1, 1945. After peace was declared this ship was converted into a troop transport and has carried five thousand passengers a trip from the Islands to the States.


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① Robert Ormond Butler

First Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Butler of St. Francisville, La., he was born Aug. 5, 1919. After graduating from high school he attended Louisiana State University. In May, 1942, Butler entered the service. He received training at Fort Sill, Okla., and was later assigned to Fort Bragg, N. C. In April, 1943, Lieutenant Butler was shipped overseas. Serving with the 82nd Airborne Division, he participated in the bitter fighting in Sicily, Naples, Foggia, Normandy, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. He was awarded the Silver Star, Presidential Unit Citation, Dutch Lanyard, Belgian Fourragere, European-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon with six Bronze Stars and two Bronze Arrowheads. After more than three years of meritorious service Lieutenant Butler was discharged Dec. 14, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

② Charles Mathews Butler

Major, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Butler and husband of Katherine Pipes Butler, he was born Sept. 7, 1910, and attended Sewanee Military Academy and Louisiana State University. Entering the armed forces in May, 1942, Butler was assigned to Lake Charles Army Air Field, later being sent to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Major Butler departed in March, 1944, for New Guinea and participated in the Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, Southern Philippines and Ryukyus Campaigns. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with four Bronze Stars and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Stars. Major Butler served with the 842nd Engineer Aviation Battalion while overseas. He was discharged March 11, 1946. He is the father of Anne L. Butler.

③ Earl W. Spillman

T/Sgt., Air Forces

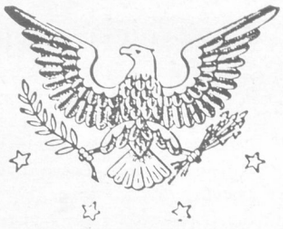
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Earl Spillman of Spillman, West Feliciana Parish. He is a graduate of Julius Freyhan High School, St. Francisville, and was engaged in the mercantile business and in cattle farming prior to his induction Oct. 11, 1941, at Camp Livingston. In the Army Air Forces, he was assigned to Greenville Army Air Field, Miss., and Camp Luna, N. M., with the duties of ordnance automotive instructor and clerical work. On July 30, 1944, he embarked for India, and spent 18 months of service overseas. He was operations specialist with the 1305th Army Air Forces BUICD Air Transport Command, stationed at Calcutta. He has the American Defense Service Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal and a Distinguished Unit Citation for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge Jan. 4, 1946.

④ James M. Parker, Jr.

United States Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Munroe Parker of Escondido Beach, Pacific Palisades, Calif., and grandson of Mrs. Eugenie Stocking Kilbourne of West Feliciana. He was born July 28, 1922, and attended United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. In August, 1940, he entered the Navy at Annapolis and served at the Naval Academy, at the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla., with the USS Farragut DD 348 and the USS Woodworth DD 460. In August, 1943, he embarked for Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides with the USS Woodworth DD 460 and served in the Solomon Islands and New Guinea areas. He also served in the naval operations in the Western Carolines, the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. With the USS Woodworth DD 460 he participated in the famed carrier strike on Rabaul in October, 1943, the bombardment of the Shortland Islands, the landings on Bougainville, the Destroyer attacks on Rabaul, the Destroyer raid on Kavieng, the Green Islands, Northern Solomons Consolidation, the Philippine Liberation and supporting operations at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He has the American Defense Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with six Stars and Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Star.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Louis John Lambert

② Clifton P. Lambert

③ Jay N. James

④ George Josphet Keller

⑤ Theodore Hudson Himel

⑥ John Eliser

⑦ Henry J. Marchand

⑧ Alva J. Walls

⑨ Vernon Joseph LeBlanc

⑩ Joseph Windom White

⑪ Harvey John West

⑫ Rudolph J. Blackwell

⑬ Vernon Paul Lambert

⑭ Spaulding L. Cedotal

⑮ Milton LaFayette Chaney

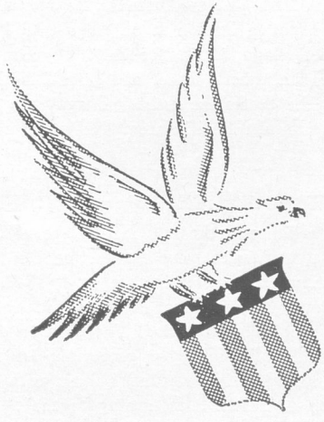
⑯ Sabas Ourile Duplessis, Jr.

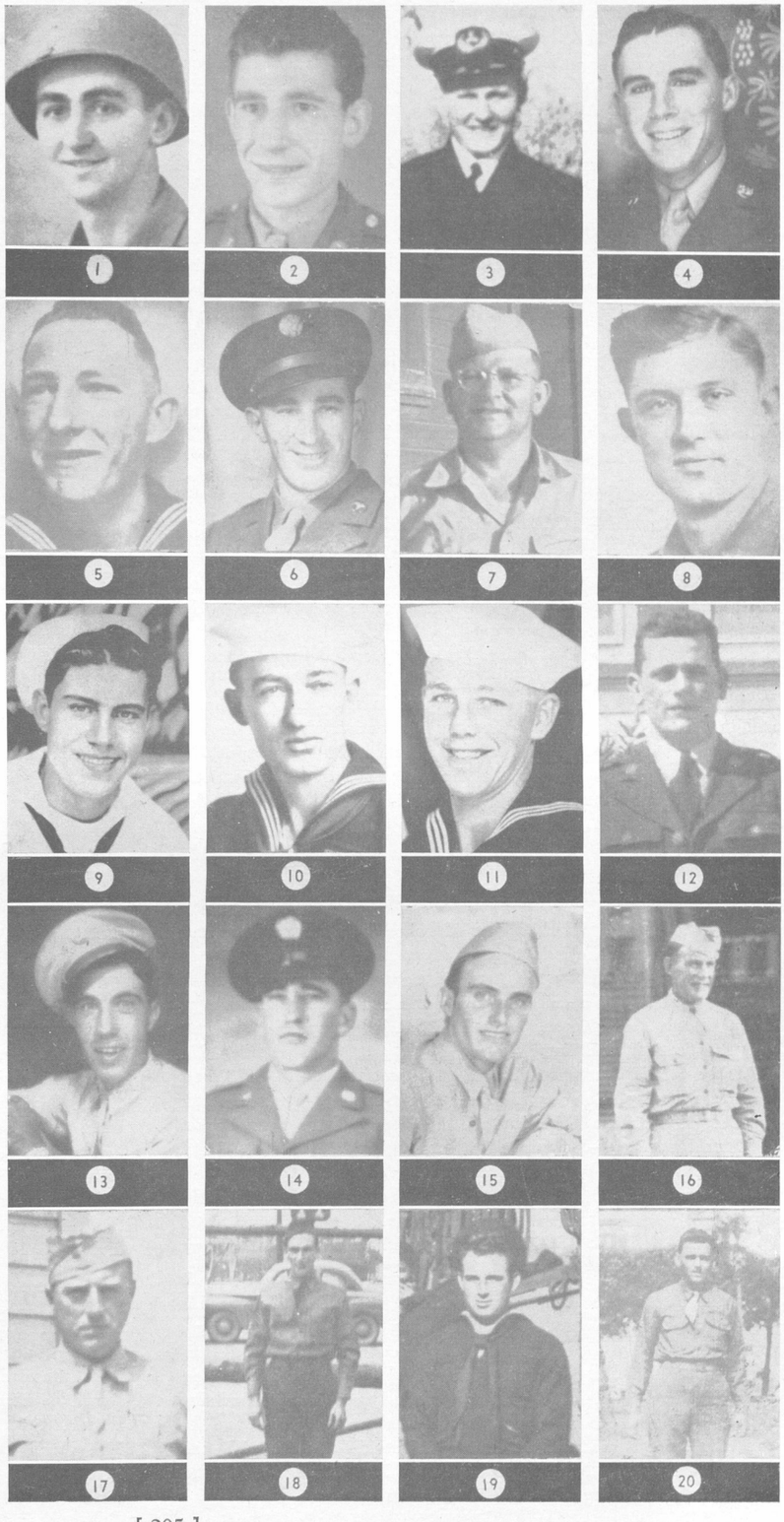
⑰ Cecile E. Landry

⑱ Elmo I. Villar

⑲ Roy Joseph Thomassie

⑳ Herman J. Decoteau





① LOUIS JOHN LAMBERT, Private, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Drozin Lambert, Gonzales. He was born Feb. 8, 1926, and entered the Army on May 19, 1944, at Camp Beauregard, where he was inducted prior to going to Camp Fannin, Texas, for basic training. He was assigned to duty with the 70th Infantry Division at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and went to Camp Myles Standish, Mass., where he was alerted for overseas duty. He left the Continental United States on Dec. 1, 1944, and arrived in Marseilles, France, on Dec. 10, 1944. He went into combat in Germany, Luxembourg, Austria and Czechoslovakia and served in the Campaigns of the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with Campaign Stars, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star and World War II Victory Medal. Returning to the States, he was honorably discharged at the Separation Center, Camp Shelby, Miss., on May 2, 1946, with no time lost under Article of War 107.

② CLIFTON P. LAMBERT, Corporal, Air Force

Husband of Rita Mae and father of Ronnie Raymond. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Lambert, Gonzales, La., and attended schools in that city. He entered service Feb. 10, 1942, and went to Camp Robinson, Ark., for basic training. A later assignment to Barksdale Field, La., gave him advanced training with the Air Corps in preparation for his overseas duty which began September 16, 1943. He served in England, France, and Belgium for a total of 23 months. His discharge came to him in honorable form Oct. 21, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

③ JAY N. JAMES, U. S. Maritime Service

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph N. James of Hobart. He was born March 13, 1926, and graduated from Dutchtown High School prior to entering the United States Maritime Service at St. Petersburg, Fla., Jan. 25, 1944. He was assigned to the U. S. Maritime Training Station, Engineer Division, in St. Petersburg and departed June 6, 1944, for service in the Atlantic and Pacific areas. He served in Brazil, Trinidad, B. W. I., and the Ascension Isles in the Atlantic and in the Philippine Islands and the occupation of Japan in the Pacific in the Engines Division of the Transportation Corps. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific and American Theater Ribbons, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

④ GEORGE JOSPHET KELLER, Army of United States

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Keller of Lake. He attended Lake and St. Amant High Schools and was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to entering the Army in the Infantry Aug. 17, 1944, at New Orleans. He received training and served as a rifleman at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark., Camp Hood, Texas, Fort Meade, Md., and Camp Kilmer, N. J., port of embarkation. He embarked for the European Theater of Operations Jan. 6, 1945, and served in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. He fought in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and the Closing of the Ruhr Pocket in Central Europe and continued to serve in Europe with the Army of Occupation after Victory in Europe Day.

⑤ THEODORE HUDSON HIMEL, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Himel of Geismar. He was born July 5, 1926, and entered the U. S. Navy June 19, 1944, at New Orleans. He was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., for training. On Sept. 15, 1944, he embarked for Pearl Harbor and served in the Hawaiian Islands, on Leyte in the Philippines, on Guadalcanal in the Solomons, and in the Russells, the Marshalls, and on Okinawa. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Campaign Star, and World War II Victory Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge Feb. 26, 1946, at New Orleans.

⑥ JOHN ELISER, S/Sgt., MC, AUS

Husband of Ruth St. Amant Eliser and son of Mrs. Violar Babin Eliser of Gonzales. He was born Oct. 25, 1916, and attended Gonzales High School. He was engaged in farming and livestock growing prior to his induction into the Army at New Orleans on July 16, 1943. Staff Sergeant Eliser served at Camp Barkeley, Texas, as a Medical Corps trainee and embarked Dec. 7, 1943, for the South Pacific. He was assigned to duty with the Medical Corps at Oral Bay, New Guinea, and at Clark Field in the City of Manila on Luzon in the Philippine Islands. He has the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Star for the Campaign of Luzon (Manila). He was discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas.

⑦ HENRY J. MARCHAND, PFC, U. S. Army

Husband of Martha Marie T. Marchand and father of Margaret, Dennis, Claude and Marie Marchand. He was born August 17, 1906, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Marchand of Geismar, and attended Dutchtown High School. He was a carpenter by occupation prior to entering the U. S. Army Feb. 11, 1943, at Donaldsonville. He received engineer training at Camp Beauregard, Camp Abbot, Ore., Fort Lewis, Wash., Camp Beale, Calif., Camp Gruber, Okla., and Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He embarked for England Oct. 13, 1944, and served in Paris, France, with the Corps of Engineers. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations and American Theater Ribbons, the Combat Infantry and Expert Rifle Badges. He was honorably discharged Oct. 16, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑧ ALVA J. WALLS, Corporal, CE, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Henderson Walls of Gonzales. He was born June 4, 1923, and attended St. Amant High School, graduating in 1942. He was a carpenter by occupation and was engaged in farming prior to his induction April 28, 1943, at Camp Beauregard in the Corps of Engineers. He was assigned to Fort Belvoir, Va., for basic training, and to Ordnance Automotive School, Atlanta, Ga. He went to the Replacement Depot at Camp Reynolds, Pa., in charge of a replacement platoon, and was assigned to the 61st Engineer Combat Battalion, with which he embarked from Camp Myles Standish, Mass., on March 24, 1944, for Bristol, England. After further engineer and combat training in England he served as a construction foreman with the Corps of Engineers in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, establishing bridges, roads, road blocks, and demolitions and serving as squad leader with a machine gun squad and as an infantry replacement. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with Campaign Stars for Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes, and Central Europe, and the Good Conduct Medal.

⑨ VERNON JOSEPH LEBLANC, Seaman 1/C, USCG

Son of Ozele Sanchez LeBlanc of Gonzales. He was born Aug. 10, 1926, and attended Gonzales High School, entering the United States Coast Guard Oct. 19, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned to the U. S. Coast Guard Training Station at St. Augustine, Fla., for training, and to Terminal Island, Calif., for duty. On Jan. 12, 1943, he embarked for San Juan, Puerto Rico, and served in the Caribbean area. Returning to the States, he embarked again on Jan. 1, 1945, this time for the Southwest Pacific area. He was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans.

⑩ JOSEPH WINDOM WHITE, Painter 2/C, USNRCB

Son of Mrs. J. P. White and the late Mr. White of Gonzales. He was a painter and paperhanger prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve at New Orleans on September 1, 1942. He was assigned to Camp Peary, Va., for boot training and Camp Endicott, Davisville, R. I., for advanced training. Assigned to duty with the 54th Naval Construction Battalion, he embarked for North Africa Feb. 22, 1943, and served in Algeria and Tunisia with a unit which served in Sicily and at Salerno. Returning to the States Dec. 17,

1943, he embarked again Jan. 10, 1944, for the Pacific area, reaching the Philippines March 4, 1944. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and the American Theater of Operations Ribbon. He was honorably discharged on Aug. 26, 1945, at New Orleans, after almost three years of unselfish service in three theaters of operations.

⑪ HARVEY JOHN WEST, U. S. Naval Reserve

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. West of Gonzales, he was born Aug. 21, 1927, and attended Galvez School and Gonzales High School. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to enlisting in the U. S. Naval Reserve May 18, 1944, at Baton Rouge. From the Naval Training Center at Fort Emory, Calif., he went to the U. S. Amphibious Training Base at Coronado, Calif. On Oct. 18, 1944, he embarked for sea duty and served in Saipan, Tinian and Guam in the Marianas, in the Hawaiian Islands, Tulagi, Leyte in the Philippines, the Marshalls, the Carolines, New Caledonia, Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the occupation of Japan. He was in combat against the enemy at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and has a Presidential Unit Citation Badge for outstanding performance of duty in action.

⑫ RUDOLPH J. BLACKWELL, Staff Sergeant, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Joseph Blackwell of Lake. He was born Feb. 10, 1915, and was a power lineman prior to entering the Army in the Cavalry on June 20, 1941, at Camp Livingston. He served with the Cavalry at Camp Livingston, Fort Clark, Texas, Camp Shelby, Miss., and Fort Riley, Kan. On July 21, 1942, he embarked for New Caledonia and served in the Pacific area at New Guinea, New Britain, the Southern Philippines, Luzon and at Wood Lark Field. His principal duty was that of field wire chief. He was in combat in the Bismarck Archipelago, the Southern Philippines, Luzon and New Guinea, and has the American Defense Service Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on Aug. 21, 1945.

⑬ VERNON PAUL LAMBERT, Private, U. S. Army

Husband of Eula Mae Frederic Lambert and father of Joseph Paul, Ruby Mae, Lionel and Norgdean Lambert. He was born June 5, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Lambert of St. Amant, and entered the United States Army May 23, 1944, at Camp Beauregard. He was assigned for training to Camp Fannin, Texas, and went overseas to serve through France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and Germany, having the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars. Private Lambert was granted his honorable discharge Oct. 20, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑭ SPAULDING L. CEDOTAL, T/4, Infantry

Husband of Helen Johnson and father of James and Spaulding, Jr., he was born July 23, 1921, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Cedotal, Sorrento, La. Prior to his service in the Army he worked as pipe fitter and metal chipper. He entered service June 14, 1944, at Camp Beauregard, La., and took basic training at Camp Wolters, Texas. He departed for Europe Dec. 26, 1944, and served as a mechanic gunner with the 41st Armored Infantry Regiment in Belgium, Holland and Germany. He participated in the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. His separation from the service came on Feb. 10, 1946, with an honorable discharge.

⑮ MILTON LAFAYETTE CHANEY, PFC, MP, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. LaFayette Chaney of Dutchtown. He was born July 31, 1920, and attended Oak Grove School. He entered armed service July 1, 1942, with the Corps of Military Police at New Orleans and served at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark., at Ford Ord, Calif., Fort Dix, N. J., and Camp Anza, Calif. On May 13, 1943, he embarked for service in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations with the Corps of Military Police and served in Australia, Japan, the Philippines and Biak. He fought in the Campaign of New Guinea and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the Victory Medal, one Service Stripe and five Overseas Service Bars. He was granted his honorable discharge at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, on Jan. 1, 1946.

⑯ SABAS OURILE DUPLESSIS, JR., Private, Transportation Corps

Husband of Leontine Duplessis and father of Rose Mary Kling, Harry Kling, Winnie Mae, Ruby Marie, Sabas Ourile Duplessis III, Deloris Dell Duplessis, John Ottis Duplessis and Iris Jane Duplessis. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sabas Ourile Duplessis of Gonzales. He was a machinist helper with Standard Oil of New Jersey prior to entering the Transportation Corps April 19, 1945, at New Orleans. He received basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and longshoreman training at Camp Plauche, New Orleans. Private Duplessis was granted an honorable discharge under the dependency provision Sept. 29, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑰ CECILE E. LANDRY, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. Terance M. Landry of Prairieville, La. He was born in November of 1908 and attended the Dutchtown High School. Cecile entered the armed forces on April 5, 1943.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑱ ELMO I. VILLAR, CAC, U. S. Army

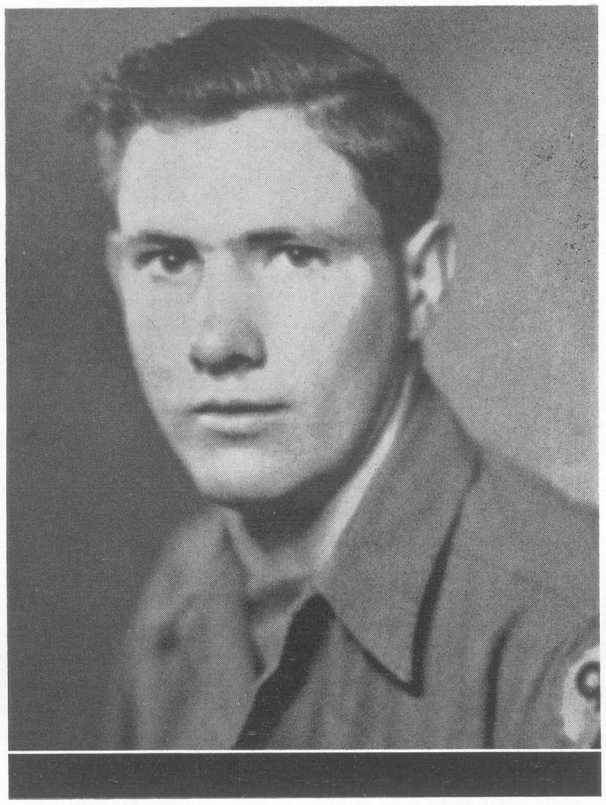
Son of Mrs. Leona M. Villar of Lake. He was born Oct. 10, 1913, and was engaged in logging operations prior to entering Military Service in the Coast Artillery Corps on November 25, 1941, in Mississippi. He went to Fort Eustis, Va., for Infantry basic and served as a cannoneer and ammunition handler. He spent 24 months overseas, serving in New Guinea and the Admiralty Islands with Battery D, 50th Coast Artillery, operating and doing maintenance on Artillery pieces. He was in combat on the Bismarck Archipelago and in New Guinea and has the American Defense Service Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal and World War I Victory Medal. He served for four years and one month with the Coast Artillery Corps and was overseas for two years, serving with both the Sixth U. S. Army and the Eighth U. S. Army. He was discharged Dec. 31, 1945.

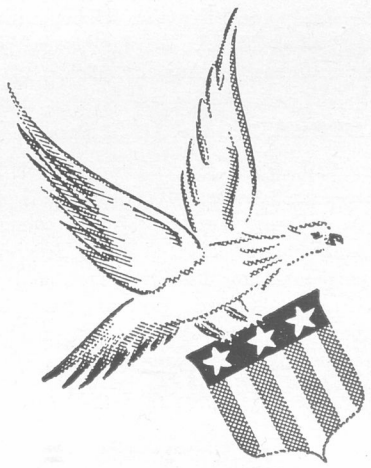
⑲ ROY JOSEPH THOMASSIE, Boatswain 2/C, Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Omer Paul Thomassie, Gonzales, La. He was born June 22, 1920, and is a graduate of St. Amant High School. He received boot training at San Diego, Calif., and U. S. Naval Repair Base, New Orleans, La. He sailed for Pearl Harbor Aug. 9, 1942, and later saw duty in New Guinea, Australia and Philippines. This duty included numerous trips from San Francisco to these points. He was honorably separated from the service Dec. 20, 1945, at New Orleans, La.

⑳ HERMAN J. DECOTEAU, PFC, U. S. Army

Husband of Doris Bertha Decoteau and father of Norris J. Decoteau and Yvonne M. Decoteau. He was born June 12, 1920, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John B. Decoteau of Gonzales. He was with Standard Oil of Louisiana as a pipefitter prior to entering the Army June 27, 1944, at Camp Beauregard. He received basic infantry at Camp Blanding, Fla., and went overseas Dec. 10, 1944, serving at Leghorn, Italy, as Quartermaster in the Po Valley Campaign. Returning to the States, he served as Quartermaster at Camp Bowie, Texas, until receiving his honorable discharge under the demobilization system at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Feb. 1, 1946. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with a Bronze Campaign Star for the Po Valley, and the Good Conduct Medal.





Lloyd A. Carbo

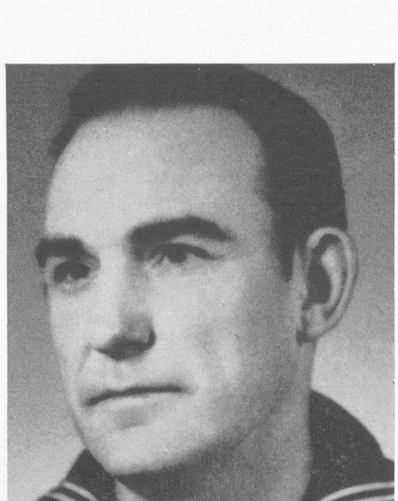
PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Nichols J. Carbo of Donaldsonville, La., he was born July 5, 1925. He attended Donaldsonville High School. Entering the armed forces Sept. 21, 1943, at New Orleans, La., Carbo was assigned to Ft. Sill, Okla., for basic training in the Field Artillery, later being sent to Ft. Meade, Md., for training as a rifleman. He departed May 12, 1944, for England. PFC Carbo served in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany and Czechoslovakia with the 94th Infantry Division. He participated in the fighting of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. Carbo was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. After more than two years of meritorious service to his country he was discharged Jan. 15, 1946.





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① Rudolph P. Landry, Jr.

Sergeant, U. S. Army

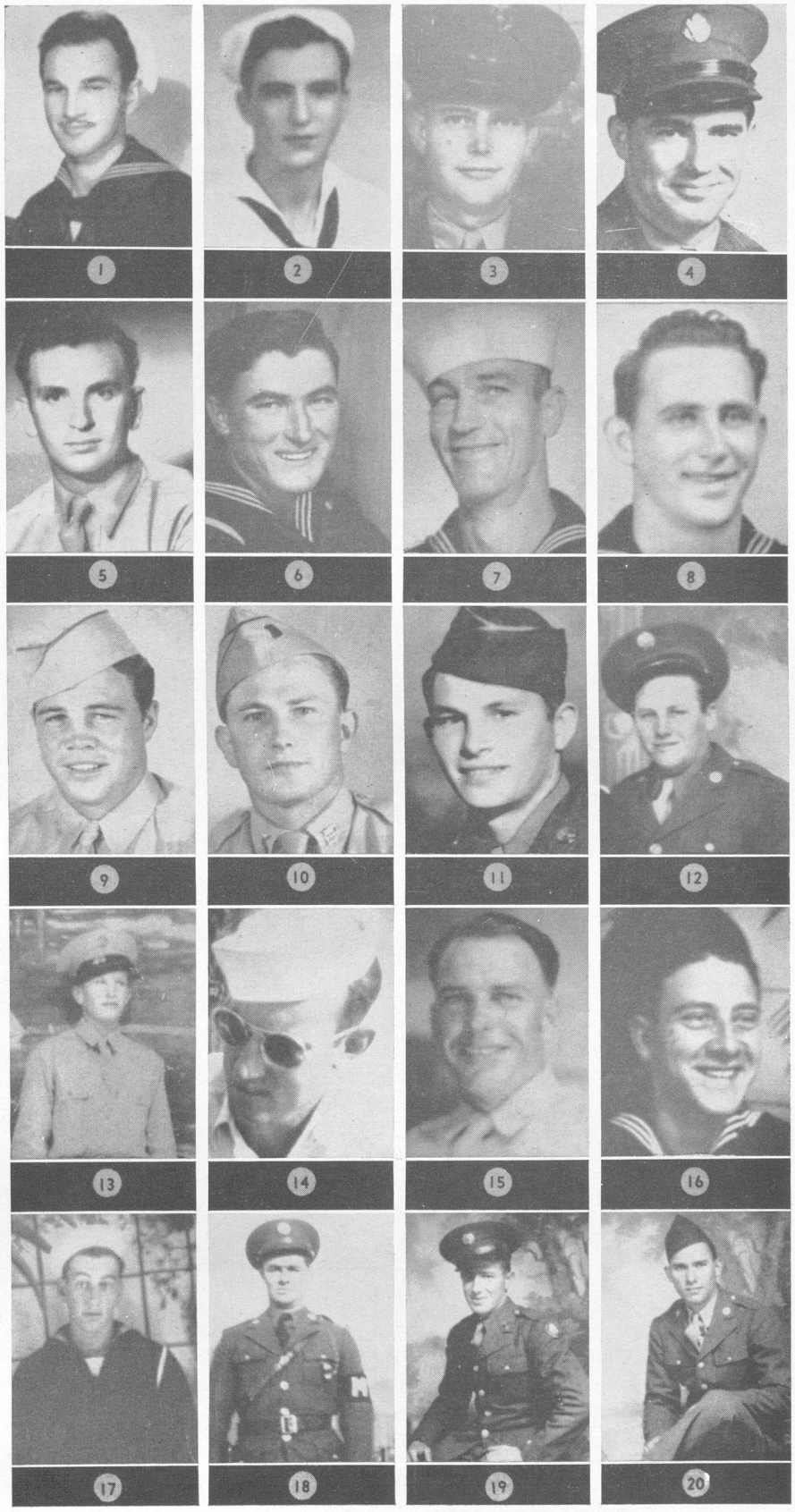
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Landry, Sr., and husband of Lucille Graffeo Landry, he was born Dec. 13, 1911, and attended Belle Rose High School. Entering the service Sept. 21, 1943, Landry was assigned to Camp Reynolds, Pa. He departed in June of 1944, for Europe and participated in the bitter fighting of the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. He was awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge, European-African-Middle Eastern Ribbon with three Bronze Stars, the Expert Rifleman Badge, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. Sergeant Landry was captured in Marbourg, Germany, Dec. 17, 1944, and was in Badorb, Germany, Stalag IX B from Dec. 26, 1944, until April 2, 1945. After more than two years of meritorious and faithful service to his country he was discharged Nov. 30, 1945.

② George L. Duplessis

U. S. Navy

No information available.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Charles Paul Bourgeois

② Percy Louis Babin

③ Charles Virgil Jesclard

④ Claude William Breaux

⑤ Samuel Bernard LeBlanc

⑥ Wilbert Paul Braud

⑦ Ralph Joseph Melancon

⑧ Donald Bently Melancon

⑨ Carter E. Williams

⑩ James C. Williams

⑪ Rex Andrews Williams

⑫ Glen David Williams

⑬ Huey Long Williams

⑭ John Alfred Bourgeois

⑮ Donald Jumonville

⑯ Jesse Donald Villnuve

⑰ Louis Hebert

⑱ Hubert Andrew Delaune

⑲ Joseph Ray Humphrey

⑳ Alvin Joseph Laiche



① **CHARLES PAUL BOURGEOIS**
Ph M 1/C, U. S. Navy (R)

Husband of Donna Chamberlain Bourgeois, 4455 Aracado Street, Los Angeles, and father of Charles Michael Bourgeois. He was born Oct. 18, 1924, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tousin Bourgeois of Gonzales. He attended St. Amant High School and was with Woodruff Funeral Home prior to his induction into the U. S. Naval Reserve Nov. 17, 1942, at San Diego, Cal. He served at the U. S. Naval Hospital, San Diego, Corona Hospital, and Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif., as a corpsman assigned to the Marine Raiders in Oceanside. He departed for the Pacific area but his ship was torpedoed en route and was ordered to return to the United States. He was honorably discharged in December, 1945, at Camp Pendleton.

② **PERCY LOUIS BABIN, Boatswain's Mate 2/C, U.S.N.**

Husband of Rita V. Babin of Gonzales and son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Babin of Lutcher. He was born Feb. 21, 1921, and attended Lutcher High School. Entering the United States Coast Guard Reserve Feb. 11, 1942, at New Orleans, he served at Algiers Navy Yard, New Orleans, at Grand Isles, and at Savannah, Ga., Small Craft School. On April 16, 1945, he embarked for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations and served with the USS Centaurus AKA 17. He was in combat in the Campaign of Okinawa. Returning to the States, he was honorably discharged at New Orleans Nov. 2, 1945. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with Campaign Star for Okinawa.

③ **CHARLES VIRGIL JESCLARD, PFC, U. S. Marine Corps**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph J. Jesclard and husband of Verna Henry Jesclard, he was born April 3, 1920, and attended S. J. Peters and Murphy High School. Entering the service June 30, 1944, he was assigned to Camp Pendleton for training. Departing Nov. 23, 1944, for overseas PFC Jesclard participated in the bitter fighting of Iwo Jima and Volcano Islands. He received the Purple Heart March 11, 1945, at Camp Tarawa, Hilo, Hawaii. After more than a year's faithful service to his country he was discharged Dec. 6, 1945. He is the father of Dianne M., Carolyn Ann and Patricia Lewese Jesclard.

④ **CLAUDE WILLIAM BREAUX,**
Cpl., U. S. Army Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonce Richard Breaux of Angola, La., and husband of Ruth Henry Breaux, he was born Nov. 8, 1919. Breaux attended Gonzales High School. Entering the service Nov. 3, 1941, he was assigned to Macon, Ga., as a cook. He departed Sept. 5, 1942, for England and served as a cook in England, Scotland, Africa and as shop foreman in Italy. He participated in the Naples-Foggia and Rome-Arno Campaigns. Corporal Breaux holds the European Theater Ribbon and Good Conduct Ribbon. He was discharged Nov. 2, 1945.

⑤ **SAMUEL BERNARD LeBLANC,**
Tec/4, Army Air Forces

Husband of Mrs. Doris Braud LeBlanc, Route 2, Gonzales, and father of Juanita Ann LeBlanc. He was born Aug. 15, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam LeBlanc of Gonzales, and attended Gonzales High School and Baton Rouge Trades School. He was a molding machine operator for Baton Rouge Sash and Door Works prior to entering the Army Air Forces Dec. 28, 1942, at New Orleans. Sergeant LeBlanc served at Sheppard Field, Texas, Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and Camp Stoneman, Calif., departing June 7, 1943, for Wheeler Field, Hawaii, where he was assigned to duty in construction work. He served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater with the 1933rd Utilities Company for 29 months in the construction of bridges, barracks and installations. He has the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Nov. 12, 1945.

⑥ **WILBERT PAUL BRAUD, Coxswain, U. S. Navy**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Earnest Braud of Gonzales. He was born June 26, 1926, and attended Gonzales High School and Baton Rouge Trades School. He was an automobile mechanic prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve on June 13, 1944, at New Orleans. Coxswain Braud went from the United States Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., to Landing Craft School at Coronado, Calif. As coxswain on landing craft he served with the USS Edgecombe APA 164, embarking for New Guinea on Dec. 29, 1944. He served on Leyte and Mindoro, Philippines, on Okinawa, Saipan, and at Pearl Harbor, in the Japanese home islands and on Samar in the Philippines. He was in combat in the Campaign of Okinawa and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans June 5, 1946.

⑦ **RALPH JOSEPH MELANCON, S 1/C, U. S. Navy**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Armond Melancon of Sorrento, La., and husband of Mrs. Grace P. Melancon, was born Sept. 11, 1908. He was inducted and assigned to the U. S. Navy and received his boot training at San Diego, Calif. On March 15, 1944, he embarked with his destination as Pearl Harbor where he served with the Ground Forces Aviation. S 1/C Melancon served his country faithfully and unselfishly and on the first day of November, 1945, he was given his discharge at New Orleans, La.

⑧ **DONALD BENTLY MELANCON,**
Seaman 1/C, Coast Guard

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Numa Melancon of Sorrento. He was born Nov. 29, 1921, and attended St. Amant High School. He was with Pan-American Production Company at Sorrento. On Aug. 31, 1942, he enlisted in the U. S. Coast Guard at New Orleans and went to Brownsville, Texas, assigned to duty with a U. S. Coast Guard fire boat. He served in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Alameda, Calif., then served on sea duty with the USS Grand Forks PF 11 and with the USS Pueblo PF 13. He was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on April 23, 1946.

⑨ **CARTER E. WILLIAMS, PFC, U. S. Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Williams of Gonzales, La., he was born May 3, 1922, and attended Gonzales High School. Entering the service Nov. 25, 1942, he was assigned to Jefferson Barracks, Mo., for training, later being sent to Miami Beach, Fla. He departed March 3, 1944, for England where he served as a munitions worker until being transferred to the Infantry. He was then sent to the front near the Maginot Line and participated in the crossing of the Rhine. Williams also saw action in the bitter fighting at Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, Rhineland and Air Offensive over Europe. He fought with Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army until surrender. He is the holder of the European-African-Middle Eastern Camapign Medal, Meritorious Unit Award, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal.

⑩ JAMES C. WILLIAMS, Lieut, U. S. Public Health Service

Husband of Leola M. Clouatre and father of Robert, Judy Ann and Fred Ray Williams, he was born April 30, 1917. Williams attended Gonzales High School, Louisiana State University. Prior to his services with the U. S. Public Health Service he was a teacher of vocational agriculture. He entered the service June 1, 1944, and his duties are extending malaria control in war areas. Lieutenant Williams is still with the Health Service in Atlanta, Ga. He holds the American Theater Ribbon and Victory Ribbon.

⑪ REX ANDREWS WILLIAMS, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Williams of Gonzales, La., he was born Oct. 21, 1925. Williams attended St. Amant High School. Entering the service Dec. 20, 1943, he was assigned to Camp Fannin, Texas, Camp Van Dorn, Miss., and Camp Breckinridge, Ky. He departed in October, 1944, for overseas as a rifleman and participated in the bitter fighting of the Rhineland, Ardennes and Battle of the Bulge. PFC Williams was awarded the European Theater Ribbon, Combat Infantryman's Badge with one Battle Star and the Good Conduct Medal. After more than a year of meritorious service for his country he was discharged Aug. 9, 1945.

⑫ GLEN DAVID WILLIAMS, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Grant Williams of Gonzales, La., he was born Sept. 3, 1920. He is the husband of Stella Keller Williams and father of Larry Wayne. Williams attended Gonzales High School. Entering the armed forces April 21, 1943, he was assigned to Camp Harrisham for basic training, later being sent to Camp Claiborne, La. He departed March 9, 1944, for overseas and participated in the fighting at New Guinea and Southern Philippines. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Star, Meritorious Unit Award and the Good Conduct Medal. After three years of faithful service to his country he was discharged April 13, 1946.

⑬ HUEY LONG WILLIAMS, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Williams of Gonzales, La., he was born Jan. 2, 1924, and attended St. Amant High School. He entered the service July 17, 1943, and was assigned to Camp Wallace, Texas, later being sent to Ft. Ord, Calif., and Ft. Lawton, Wash. Huey departed March 18, 1945, for overseas. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, Victory Ribbon, one Overseas Service Bar and Rifle Marksman Medal. He was discharged March 8, 1946.

⑭ JOHN ALFRED BOURGEOIS, AETM 3/C, U. S. Navy (R)

Husband of Mildred Ickard Bourgeois, 7210 Gillen Street, Houston, Texas, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tousin Bourgeois, Gonzales. He was born Jan. 16, 1920, and attended St. Amant High School and Radio Gulf School, New Orleans. He was a radio operator for Eastern Air Lines with six years seniority. On May 10, 1944, he was inducted into the United States Naval Reserve at San Diego, and served at San Diego and Oakland, Calif. He was granted his honorable discharge at Oakland on June 1, 1946.

⑮ DONALD JUMONVILLE, T/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Jumonville and husband of Ruth Jumonville, he was born April 9, 1917. He attended White Hall Grammar School. Entering the armed forces May 21, 1945, Donald was assigned to Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., where he instructed men in the fundamentals of gasoline engines. Sergeant Jumonville departed for Marburg, Germany, Dec. 6, 1945, later being sent to Burstadt, Germany. He is the father of Dudley and Dixie Lee Jumonville.

⑯ JESSE DONALD VILLNUVE, AOM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Nettie Villnuve of Sorrento, La. He was born Sept. 4, 1925, and attended the St. Amant School. Jesse entered the armed forces Nov. 18, 1943.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑰ LOUIS HEBERT, Seaman 2/C, U.S.N.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hebert of Gonzales. He was born March 11, 1926, and attended St. Amant High School. He was engaged in farming prior to enlisting in the U. S. Navy on May 10, 1944, at Norfolk, Va. He served at the Naval Operations Base, Norfolk, on the USS North Carolina, in Boston, Mass., and the New York Navy Yard, on guard duty and in storing and guarding Naval planes. He was assigned to the USS North Carolina as a painter. He also served in anchoring and handling sea planes. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on Feb. 9, 1946.

⑱ HUBERT ANDREW DELAUNE, Sgt., MP, AUS

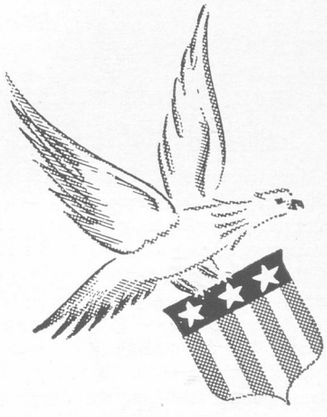
Husband of Helen Delaune of Gonzales and father of Sheron Ann Delaune. He was born Aug. 11, 1916, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Delaune of St. Amant, and attended Ponchatoula High School. He was engaged in farming prior to entering the Army of the United States in the Corps of Military Police at Camp Beauregard. He served at Camp Claiborne with the Military Police, and embarked May 24, 1943, for Australia, from which he served in New Guinea and the Philippine Islands. Sergeant Delaune was in combat in New Guinea and the Philippines, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the American Defense Service Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably descharged at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, on Oct. 5, 1945.

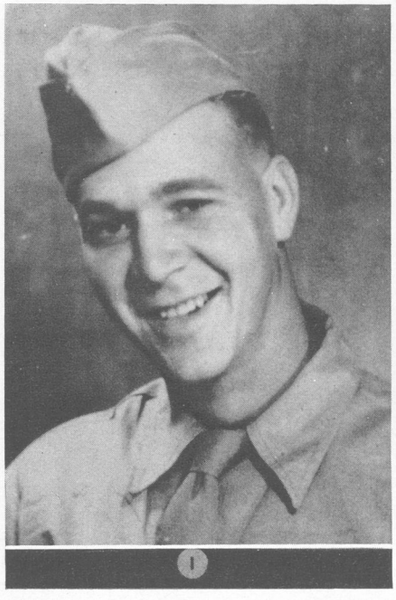
⑲ JOSEPH RAY HUMPHREY, Cpl., Army of U. S.

Husband of Mrs. Joseph Ray Humphrey of Sorrento. He was born Jan. 7, 1925, and is the son of Mrs. Archange Humphrey of Sorrento. A graduate of St. Amant High School, he was connected with the sawmill business prior to entering the Army of the United States July 16, 1943, at Alexandria. He served at Fort Sill, Okla., Field Artillery School at Camp Gruber, Okla., Camp Chaffee, Ark., Fort Knox, Ky., and Camp Myles Standish, Mass., with the Corps of Engineers. Going to the European Theater, he served in England, France, Belgium and Holland, assigned to duty as a mess cook, and in Germany in combat in the Campaign of the Rhineland (Orden). He has the European Theater Ribbon with one Star and Good Conduct Medal, and re-enlisted for three years on his discharge at Etampes, France, Oct. 29, 1945.

⑳ ALVIN JOSEPH LAICHE, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Etienne Laiche of Sorrento, La., and husband of Mrs. Isabelle Laiche, was born Sept. 27, 1918. He was inducted into the U. S. Army on Sept. 12, 1942, and assigned to Fort Lewis, Wash. After receiving his training he sailed for Europe on Sept. 29, 1944, and saw action as a heavy machine gunner in the Rhineland and Central Europe. PFC Laiche holds the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars. On Oct. 15, 1945, he received his discharge at Camp Fannin, Texas.





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① Lloyd Joseph Hidalgo

Sergeant, Cavalry, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Anna Mae Martin Hidalgo of Donaldsonville and son of Mr. and Mrs. Olibert J. Hidalgo of Donaldsonville. He attended Belle Rose High School, Assumption Parish, and was engaged in farming prior to his induction into the Army of the United States on July 11, 1944, at Alexandria. With the Cavalry, he served at Fort Riley, Kan., and Fort Ord, Calif. On Jan. 10, 1945, he embarked for the China-Burma-India Theater. He served with Cavalry, Infantry and Air Corps units operating heavy armored vehicles and as a rifle marksman. He was in combat in the China Offensive, Central Burma, and the China Defensive. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the Army of Occupation Ribbon, World War II Victory Ribbon, and three Overseas Service Bars. He was honorably discharged July 25, 1946, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

② Ulyssee Joseph Hidalgo

PFC, Infantry, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Olibert J. Hidalgo of Donaldsonville. He attended Belle Rose High School in Assumption Parish and was with Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company at Baton Rouge prior to his induction into the Army of the United States at Camp Bowie, Texas, on Sept. 12, 1941. He served at Camp Bowie, Camp Wolters, Texas, Camp Blanding, Fla., Dilworth, N. C., A. P. Hill Military Reservation at Fredericksburg, Va., and Camp Edwards, Mass. He embarked for the European Theater March 14, 1943, and fought with the Infantry in the Campaign of North Africa. Private First Class Hidalgo was killed in action against the enemy before details of his campaigns in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations were learned. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, presented in Washington, D. C., on Oct. 30, 1943, for the wounds which cost his life in fighting for his country.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Thomas B. Landry, Jr.

Captain, MAC, AUS

Husband of Jeannette Ambeau Landry of Gonzales and father of Rebecca Ann and James Thomas Landry. He was born Feb. 10, 1917, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas B. Landry of Gonzales. He attended L. S. U. and Loyola University of the South where he received his B.S. degree in Pharmacy in 1940. He was a hospital pharmacist prior to entering the Medical Administrative Corps Aug. 18, 1942. Capt. Landry served as supply officer, battalion surgeon's assistant, and medical registrar at Camp Barkeley, Texas, Camp Wheeler, Ga., Camp Davis, N. C., and Camp Bowie, Texas. He embarked for France on March 7, 1945, and was assigned to duty at Alzey, Germany, as medical registrar, 137th Evacuation Hospital. He served as adjutant and personnel officer in Marseilles with the 7th Army Convalescent Hospital. He was discharged with a certificate of honorable service Jan. 13, 1946. Captain Landry received his commission in the Medical Administrative Corps at Camp Barkeley, Texas, MAC Officer Candidate School.

② Eldred Joseph Daigre

First Lieutenant, U. S. Army Air Force

Husband of Carrie Kea Rita Daigre, Route 1, Gonzales, La. He was born Sept. 20, 1923, and attended Gonzales High School and L. S. U. He was inducted April 2, 1942, at New Orleans, and received his Primary Training at Muskogee Army Air Field, Okla., his Basic Pilot Training at Enid Army Air Field, Okla., his advanced Pilot Training at the A.A.A.F., Victoria, Texas. He attended the A.A.F. Advanced Bombardier Training School, Dodge City, Kansas, at Marianna, Fla., and Moody Field, Ga., he served as Student Pilot Officer of A-26 Type Aircraft. Lt. Daigre has applied for a commission in the Regular Army, and has been recommended and passed the required examinations for such a commission. He is the son of Mrs. Lillian May Gautreau, Star Route, Gonzales, La.

③ Joseph Burleson Landry

Corporal, U. S. Army

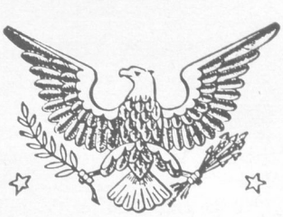
Husband of Mrs. Catherine R. Landry of Prairieville, and son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Leonce Paul Landry. He was born April 5, 1919. A graduate of Dutchtown High School, he was postmaster at Prairieville prior to his induction into the Army of the United States which he entered May 29, 1944, at Donaldsonville. Assigned to Camp Crowder, Mo., with the Signal Corps, he served as Athletic Instructor of a Regiment at Camp Crowder throughout his period of military service with the Signal Corps in the Army of the United States. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Crowder, Mo., on Nov. 23, 1945, after approximately a year and a half of unselfish and faithful service with the Army of the United States.

④ Elmo Joseph Lambert

Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Annie Lucy Bourgeois Lambert, Route 2, Gonzales, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lambert (deceased). He was born July 5, 1915, and attended St. Amant School. He entered the Army of the United States Dec. 19, 1942, and went from Camp Beauregard to Fort Lewis, Wash., for basic infantry. From the Calif. Desert Training Center (maneuvers), he went to Camp Gruber, Okla., and Camp Myles Standish, Mass., port of embarkation. On Dec. 5, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater of Operations and served as a line corporal in England and in the Invasion of France at Omaha Beach in Normandy. With the 183rd Field Artillery Battalion, he fought in Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the Purple Heart for wounds received in action, the Good Conduct Medal, and the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with five bronze Campaign Stars. Returning to the States, he was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Sept. 23, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Thomas W. Thompson

② Cilton Watson Tate

③ Robert Eugene Dawson

④ Clyde D. Ellis

⑤ Joseph Howard Ellis

⑥ Gordon Delos Ellis

⑦ Arthur V. Hall

⑧ Luther L. Hall

⑨ James D. Miller

⑩ Carl Feierabend

⑪ Arthur D. Miller

⑫ L. D. Miller

⑬ Henry Joseph Weems

⑭ Luther Brooks Weems, Jr.

⑮ Frank Pierce Worthy, Jr.

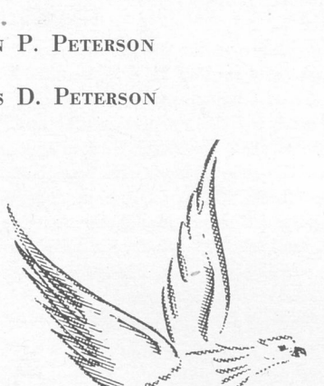
⑯ William Wallet Worthy

⑰ J. E. Miller

⑱ Harry D. Peterson

⑲ John P. Peterson

⑳ Pipes D. Peterson





① THOMAS W. THOMPSON, SF 2/C, USNR, USMC

Son of Mrs. Sara E. Thompson, Jackson. He was born Oct. 18, 1904, and was employed at East Louisiana State Hospital as a livestock man prior to entering the U. S. Naval Reserve, with which he served attached to the United States Marine Corps. He served at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., and Camp Rousseau, Calif. On April 13, 1943, he embarked for the Fiji Islands, and served at Munda Point, the Fiji Islands, Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, and the Russells. He was in combat in New Georgia, the Solomon Islands, and the Admiralties. Returning to the States, he was granted a medical discharge at New Orleans on May 11, 1945.

② CILTON WATSON TATE, Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Allen W. Tate of Slaughter, La. He was born June 11, 1924, and attended Slaughter High School and LSU. He was inducted June 4, 1943, and received his training at Camp Fannin, Texas, Mississippi State and University of Alabama for specialized training, and Camp Claiborne, La., for training in Engineering basic. He embarked from Camp Stoneman Sept. 6, 1944 for New Guinea, and he served in Hollandia, New Guinea, Tanahmerah Bay-Hollandia Airstrip, and Batangas, Luzon, assigned as surveyor and assistant construction engineer for tank farm and drum filling plant. At Yokohama, Japan, he aided in the construction of the Yokohama-Atsugi pipe line. Corporal Tate participated in the New Guinea and Luzon campaigns. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with two Bronze Stars, and the Good Conduct Medal. He is at present in the occupation forces of Japan. He was on the first ship to dock on enemy homeland.

③ ROBERT EUGENE DAWSON, Signalman Second Class, U. S. Navy

Son of Thomas Delos Dawson and Ida Ellis Dawson of Jackson, La. He was born Aug. 22, 1922, attended McKowen High School and LSU, and he was employed as an Installer for Western Electric in New Orleans prior to his induction June 29, 1942. He received his training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., Receiving Ship, San Francisco, Calif., and Small Craft Training Center, Terminal Island, Calif. In September, 1942, he embarked for the South Pacific aboard the USS Adhara, and he participated in the campaigns of Guadalcanal and Bougainville. Signalman Dawson has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with two Stars, the American Theater of Operations Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Oct. 8, 1945, at San Diego, Calif.

④ CLYDE D. ELLIS, Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Josie Ellis of Jackson, La. He was born April 17, 1921, and attended McKowen High School. He was inducted into the Signal Corps July 20, 1942, and received his training at Camp Crowder, Mo., Kansas City, Mo., for special radio training, Fort Monmouth, N. J., and Camp Stoneman, Calif. On May 25, 1943, he embarked for Brisbane, Australia, and he served at Camp Colombia, Australia, Goodenough Island, Oro Bay, New Guinea, Cape Gloucester, New Britain, Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, Leyte and Luzon, Philippine Islands. He participated in the campaigns at Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, South Philippines and Luzon. Sergeant Ellis has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with four Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with one Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, the Victory Medal and five Overseas Service Bars. He was discharged Nov. 8, 1945.

⑤ JOSEPH HOWARD ELLIS, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Velma Holliday Ellis and son of Mrs. Josie Ellis, both of Baton Rouge. He was born Nov. 13, 1918, attended McKowen High School at Jackson, and was employed by the Louisiana Creamery, Inc., prior to his induction Sept. 10, 1941. He received his training at Camp Wolters, Texas, Camp Bowie, Texas, Camp Blanding, Fla., and Camp Edwards, Mass. On April 2, 1943, he embarked for North Africa, and served at Magenta and Arzew, Salerno and Mt. Mamino. He participated in the campaigns of Naples-Foggia and Rome-Arno. Sergeant Ellis received the Purple Heart in an evacuation hospital near Mt. Camino, Italy, on Nov. 28, 1943, and he has also the American Defense Service Medal, the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. He was given an honorable medical discharge June 30, 1945.

⑥ GORDON DELOS ELLIS, Motor Machinist Mate 2/C, U. S. Coast Guard

Husband of Rita C. Ellis and father of Gordon Delos Ellis, Jr., Baton Rouge. He was born Nov. 24, 1915, attended school in Jackson, La., and was employed by the Baton Rouge Coca-Cola Bottling Company prior to his induction. He was inducted Aug. 11, 1942, and received his training at the New Orleans Staging Area, the Coast Guard Training Station, New London, Conn., the Port Security Detail, Baton Rouge, La., and the Bayou St. John Boat Detail, New Orleans, La. He was discharged Oct. 26, 1945. His mother is Mrs. Josie Ellis of Baton Rouge.

⑦ ARTHUR V. HALL, Radioman 3/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Hall of Ethel. He was born Aug. 23, 1926, and attended Ethel High School and LSU. He enlisted in the U. S. Naval Reserve Aug. 22, 1944, at New Orleans, and went to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., for boot training. He embarked June 6, 1945, for the Pacific area with USS Pine Island AV 12, stationed at the Naval Air Station, Yonabaru, Okinawa, with Fleet Air Wing One, Air Sea Rescue Unit. He served in the Atlantic on the USS Mindoro CVE 120, and with Command Carrier Division 14, embarking April 28, 1946. He was in combat with the Third Fleet at Okinawa and has one Campaign Star on the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon. In the States Radioman Third Class Hall also served at the Naval Air Station, San Diego, Carrier Division 22 (Staff), the Receiving Station at Norfolk, Carrier Division 14 (Staff), the Naval Air Station, Norfolk, and the Personnel Separation Center, New Orleans, where he was discharged June 28, 1946.

⑧ LUTHER L. HALL, Corporal, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Hall of Ethel. He was born Nov. 13, 1922, and attended Ethel High School and LSU. He is married to Jeannette Gagnon Hall of Ethel. Entering the AAF on Oct. 29, 1942, at Baton Rouge, he received training at the flight training station at Lake Charles Army Air Base. Corporal Hall served throughout his term of military duty with the Air Forces in flight control work, assigned to duty at Mitchel Field, Hempstead, Long Island, New York. After serving in flight control, he was discharged on Dec. 22, 1945, at Mitchel Field.

⑨ JAMES D. MILLER, ARM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lonie Miller of St. Francisville. He was born May 16, 1921, and attended Julius Freyhan High School, entering the U. S. Naval Reserve on July 28, 1942, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, he went to the Navy Yard at Bremerton, Wash., and Hedron FAW 4, Seattle, Wash., from which he served with Airship Squadron 33, Tillamook, Ore. From the Receiving Base, Training and Distribution Center, Shoemaker, Calif., he embarked Nov. 9, 1944, for Pearl Harbor and served with Hedron Fleet Air Wing, Kanahoe, Hawaii. He served on Eniwetok, Saipan, Guam, Kerama Rhetto, Okinawa, and at Sagami Bay and Tokyo Bay. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with one Campaign Star. He was discharged Nov. 22, 1945, at New Orleans.

⑩ CARL FEIERABEND, Tec/4, Army of U. S.

Husband of Edrena Slocum Feierabend and son of Mr. and Mrs. Willie E. Feierabend of Clinton. A graduate of Clinton High School, he entered the Army Oct. 15, 1942, at Bogalusa and served at Camp Polk, Camp Barkeley, Texas, Camp Ibis, Calif., Camp Cooke, Calif., and Camp Kilmer, N. J. Embarking Sept. 28, 1944, for the European Theater, he served in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars. He also has the Meritorious

Service Unit Plaque, the American Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct Ribbon and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged at Camp Shelby Jan. 8, 1946.

⑪ ARTHUR D. MILLER, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lonie Miller of St. Francisville, La. He was born June 19, 1919.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑫ L. D. MILLER, U. S. Army

Husband of Beatrice E. Miller of St. Louis, Mo. He was born Feb. 18, 1916, and attended St. Francisville High School. Upon completion, he entered the U. S. Army. L. D. is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lonie Miller of St. Francisville, La.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑬ HENRY JOSEPH WEEMS, EM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Luther B. Weems of Jackson. He was born Jan. 17, 1927, and attended Julius Freyhan High School, St. Francisville, being a student prior to his enlistment in the U. S. Naval Reserve on Aug. 7, 1944, at New Orleans. From the Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., he was assigned to the Amphibious Training Center for further training. He served with USS LCI (M) 1058 and was stationed at the Receiving Station at Subic Bay, Alaska. He also served with the USS Bull Wheel YO 46. On Jan. 4, 1945, he embarked for the South Pacific. He was in combat in the naval engagement for Okinawa, and has the Victory Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with Campaign Star, and the Philippine Liberation. He last served as Electrician's Mate Third Class, and was discharged at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans, on June 8, 1946.

⑭ LUTHER BROOKS WEEMS, JR., Seaman First Class, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Brooks Weems of Jackson. He was born Oct. 7, 1924, and attended Julius Freyhan High School, St. Francisville. He enlisted in the U. S. Navy at Baton Rouge, and served with AGC in the Pacific, on the SS LaPlacentia, the SS William H. Libby, the SS USAT Noordam, and at the U. S. Naval Amphibious Base at San Bruno, Calif. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. After serving with the Navy in both hemispheres and all theaters of war, he was discharged at the U. S. Naval Personnel Separation Center, New Orleans on Jan. 16, 1946.

⑮ FRANK PIERCE WORTHY, JR., Tec/4, U. S. Army

Husband of Ola Mae Worthy, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pierce Worthy of Jackson. He was born Sept. 14, 1905, and attended W. R. McKowen High School and Freeport High School. He was a wholesale automotive parts clerk prior to entering the Army on Nov. 11, 1942, at New Orleans. He went from Camp Beauregard to Camp Roberts, Calif., as ordnance supply non-commissioned officer. Sergeant Worthy directed receipt, inspection, requisition, storage and issue of such ordnance materiel as small arms, artillery weapons, automotive and armament parts, and performed many related duties. He served in this capacity until his discharge with a certificate of honorable service on Sept. 9, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss. He has the Good Conduct Medal, and had no time lost under AW 107.

⑯ WILLIAM WALLET WORTHY, Radio Technician 3/C, USN

Husband of Mrs. Jewel Worthy. He was born Oct. 5, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pierce Worthy of Jackson, and attended W. R. McKowen High School. He did radio work for Modern Music Company, Galveston, Texas, prior to entering the U. S. Coast Guard on April 19, 1943, at Houston, Texas. He attended Radio School at St. Augustine, Fla., and Radio Training School at Silver Springs, Md. From the U. S. Coast Guard Station at New Orleans he went to Galveston and Houston, Texas, and then to Groton, Conn., on duty with the Coast Guard. Returning to the Eighth Coast Guard District at New Orleans, he was transferred to the Coast Guard Station at Mobile, Ala., and served there until returning to New Orleans for discharge in the Eighth Naval Coast Guard District on Feb. 26, 1946.

⑰ J. E. MILLER, PFC, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lonie Miller of St. Francisville. He was born Aug. 23, 1912, and entered the Army on Oct. 19, 1943, at New Orleans, going from the Induction Station at Camp Beauregard to the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Wolters, Texas. He embarked for overseas duty Aug. 28, 1944, and spent over a year in foreign service. He served in the European Theater in Germany, Italy, France, Belgium and Holland, and fought in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the American Theater of Operations Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars, the Distinguished Unit Citation Badge, and Victory Medal, and was discharged Nov. 11, 1945.

⑱ HARRY D. PETERSON, Cpl., Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Peterson of Jackson. He was born Dec. 28, 1910, and was a farmer and was engaged in construction prior to entering the AAF on Jan. 17, 1942, at Camp Livingston. After recruit training at Camp Livingston, he embarked Feb. 18, 1942, for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations, arriving March 28, 1942. He served in Australia as supply clerk with the Army Air Forces, and in New Guinea and the Philippine Islands in the same capacity, going into combat and also operating supply trucks in the Philippines. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with Bronze Campaign Stars for the Southern Philippines Campaign and the Luzon Campaign, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star. He was discharged under the demobilization system at Camp Shelby, Miss., on May 17, 1945.

⑲ JOHN P. PETERSON, Corporal, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Peterson. He was born Feb. 25, 1908, and attended McKowen High School, Jackson. He was engaged in farming and construction work prior to entering the Army in the Infantry on Jan. 6, 1943, at New Orleans. He was assigned to Camp Ellis, Ill., with the 1309th Combat Engineer Battalion and remained with them to serve as an instructor on the rifle range. He embarked for overseas duty July 13, 1944, going to New Guinea where he served as carpenter for a Women's Army Corps camp. He served in the Southern Philippines and on Luzon as a member of the Utilities Shop personnel. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Star and the World War II Victory Ribbon. He was discharged at Fort Bliss, Texas, on Nov. 30, 1945.

⑳ PIPES D. PETERSON, PFC, Air Forces

Husband of Doris Maxine Peterson, Tarrant City, Ala. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Peterson of Jackson. Entering the Army Air Forces on Oct. 10, 1941, at Camp Livingston, he served at Camp Lee, Va., where he received basic training, and went to Greenville Army Air Base assigned to duty as a member of the Military Police. He served at Nashville, Tenn., and Birmingham, Ala., Air Bases and went to Kelly Field, Texas, Motor Transport School, and also received technical supply and overseas training. On Dec. 18, 1944, he embarked for the China-Burma-India Theater where he served with the Tenth Air Force and Fourteenth Air Force operating vehicles hauling supplies to the front lines. He also served with the 316th Depot Supply Squadron. He has the American Defense Service Medal, American Theater Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and Driver and Mechanic Badge with Bar. He was discharged Feb. 12, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Texas. He was born Nov. 25, 1915.

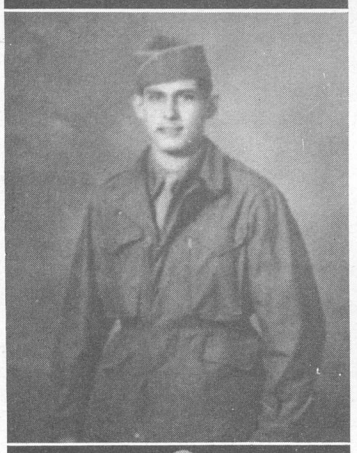
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Jesse John Laiche

Sergeant, Infantry, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Vernell Braud Laiche of St. Amant and father of Jesse John Laiche, Jr. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Laiche of St. Amant and was born March 21, 1913. Entering the Army of the United States on June 8, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, he served at Camp Pickett, Va., at Camp Blanding, Fla., in the Tennessee Maneuvers, the California Maneuvers, and at Camp Phillips, Kansas. Going to the European Theater of Operations, he served in the United Kingdom and France from April to July, 1944. Going into combat in the Campaign of Normandy, he died of wounds received in action against the enemy on July 29, 1944. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for the wounds which cost his life in the service of his country in the Invasion of France in Normandy, and had the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star for Normandy.

② Edwin Dee White

Sergeant, AAF

Husband of Nita Vicknair White of White Hall and son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Marion White of Hobart. He was born Feb. 19, 1919, and attended Oak Grove High School, Hope Villa, and Clarke Memorial College, Newton, Miss. He was with Stone and Webster Construction Co., Baton Rouge, prior to entering the Army Air Forces March 24, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. From the Basic Training Center at Sheppard Field, Texas, he went to Ordnance Training School at Camp Santa Anita, Calif. He served at Harvard Army Air Base at Harvard, Neb., Smoky Hill Army Air Field at Salina, Kansas, and Camp Anza, Calif., port of embarkation, from which he departed Aug. 13, 1944, for Saipan in the Mariana Islands in Ordnance (Air Forces) on B-29 Bomber aircraft. He served on Iwo Jima in Air Force Ordnance on P-47 Fighter aircraft. Sgt. White served in the Air Combat over the Japanese Empire and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation Badge. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Fannin, Tyler, Texas, on December 22, 1945.

③ Le Roy Landry

Private First Class, U. S. Army

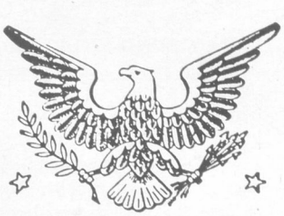
He was born Oct. 29, 1925, and attended Dutchtown schools. He was inducted into the Infantry May 19, 1944, at Camp Beauregard, and received his training at Camp Fannin, Texas; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.; and Camp Kilmer, N. J. On Dec. 6, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater where he served in France and Germany, and participated in the campaigns of Central Europe and the Rhineland. Private First Class Landry has the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Fort Dix, N. J., May 11, 1946.

④ Joseph L. Smith

Private, Army

Son of Mrs. Annie H. Smith and the late Linnie J. Smith of Dutchtown. He was born June 14, 1924, and attended Dutchtown Grammar and High Schools. He was a farmer by occupation prior to entering the Army of the U. S. in the Infantry on Nov. 11, 1943, at New Orleans. He was assigned to Camp Fannin, Texas, for Infantry Basic Training and embarked June 13, 1944, for the European Theater of Operations. He served in England and France assigned to duty with the 79th Infantry Division of the Seventh U. S. Army. He made the landing at Cherbourg, then fought his way up through Southern France and toward the Siegfried Line. Private Joseph L. Smith was killed in action against the enemy. He was wounded in combat on Oct. 9, 1944, and died of his wounds on Oct. 13, 1944. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for Military Merit and wounds received in action, and the Presidential Unit Citation. He is interred in the U. S. Military Cemetery at Epinal, France.

The FIGHTING MEN *of* LOUISIANA



① Raymond William Lambert

② Sullivan J. Lambert

③ Wilbert Vincent Braud

④ Robert Dewey Smith, Jr.

⑤ Elphege Paul Braud

⑥ Leonce J. Braud, Jr.

⑦ George Joseph Isaac

⑧ Joseph Clyde Bourgeois

⑨ Emmett F. Hamilton

⑩ William S. Hamilton

⑪ Jennings Bryan Williams

⑫ Adrian Delton Williams

⑬ Benson Capper Williams

⑭ Carl Emit Williams

⑮ Dwight Lincoln Williams

⑯ Milton Joseph Ambeau, Jr.

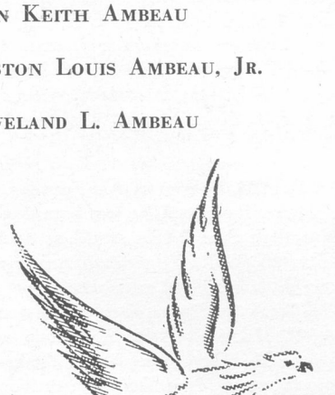
⑰ Hugh L. Ambeau

⑱ John Keith Ambeau

⑲ Preston Louis Ambeau, Jr.

⑳ Cleveland L. Ambeau





① **RAYMOND WILLIAM LAMBERT,**
2nd Lt., Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Damien Luke Lambert, Sorrento, La. He was born March 8, 1922, and attended St. Amant High School and Baton Rouge Trade School. Prior to his service with the Air Force he worked as an arc welder. He entered service Feb. 12, 1943, at New Orleans, La., and received basic training at Miami Beach, Fla. After gunnery training at Las Vegas Army Air Field; aircraft mechanic's training at Amarillo Air Field, and classification at Santa Ana, Calif., he advanced through the regular stages of pilot's training to emerge as a co-pilot on B-24 bombers. Not having been called for overseas duty, he received his honorable discharge Oct. 9, 1945, at Barksdale Field, Louisiana.

② **SULLIVAN J. LAMBERT, Sgt., Army Air Force**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Damien Luke Lambert, Sorrento, La. He attended St. Amant High School and worked as an auto mechanic prior to entrance into service. He joined the Air Corps Jan. 14, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, La., and received basic training at Sheppard Field, Texas. After attending Armament School at Lowry Field, he drew an assignment in that work at Harlingen Army Air Field. He departed for overseas Oct. 7, 1942, and served in Karachi, India, as armorer. Soon after his return to the States, he received his honorable discharge at Randolph Field, Texas, on Oct. 23, 1945.

③ **WILBERT VINCENT BRAUD, Private, U. S. Army**

Husband of Audrey S. Braud of Gonzales and father of Byron Braud. He was born Aug. 7, 1918, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Christophe Braud of Gonzales. He attended Gonzales High School and was an oil field employee prior to entering the Army of the United States on May 29, 1944. He received infantry training and served at Camp Fannin, Texas. After approximately one year of service, Private Braud was granted a medical discharge at Longview, Texas, on May 17, 1945, having served his entire term of duty with the Army of the United States at Camp Fannin in the Infantry.

④ **ROBERT DEWEY SMITH, JR., Private, Army of U. S.**

He was born Sept. 6, 1924, and attended Dutchtown High School prior to entering the Army July 30, 1943. He served at Fort Sill, Okla., Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., Camp Rucker, Ala., Fort George G. Meade, Md., Fort Myles Standish, Mass., and Camp Carson, Col., as a rifleman. He went to France July 1, 1944, and served in England, France, Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium with the Fifth Infantry Division, Second Regiment of the Third U. S. Army. He fought in Northern France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, and has the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster for wounds received at Metz in France on September 20, 1944, and on the Siegfried Line Dec. 31, 1944, in the Ardennes. He also has the Good Conduct Medal, the European Theater Ribbon with Campaign Stars and the Combat Infantry Badge. This gallant infantryman was honorably discharged July 19, 1945, at Camp Carson, Col.

⑤ **ELPHEGE PAUL BRAUD, PFC, Infantry, AUS**

Husband of Mrs. Isabel Landry Braud, Dutchtown, and father of Elphege Paul Braud, Jr. He was born May 10, 1913, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Elphege Braud, and attended Dutchtown High School. Entering the Army of the United States at Camp Beauregard on March 21, 1944, he went to Camp Fannin, Texas, Ashburn General Hospital, McKinney, Texas, and Brooke General Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas. He also served in the States at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., Camp Breckinridge, Ky., and Fort Knox, Ky. He embarked for Greenock, Scotland, on Sept. 22, 1944, and served in the European Theater in Belgium and Germany with the 16th Infantry Regiment, First Division, First Army, with which he was in the vanguard of combat in the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the European Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Combat Infantry Badge, Victory and Good Conduct Ribbons and Purple Heart received April 16, 1945, in Germany. He was discharged Nov. 24, 1945.

⑥ **LEONCE J. BRAUD, JR., Corporal, Transportation Corps**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonce J. Braud, Sorrento, La. He was born Oct. 2, 1918, and attended school at St. Amant. Before entering service on July 2, 1942, he worked at a plywood mill. For basic training he was assigned to Camp Robinson, Ark., and later was transferred to Fort Lawton, Wash., for duty with the post engineers. On Jan. 16, 1943, he left for Juneau, Alaska, where he was assigned as longshoreman, cargo checker and military policeman. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Fort Bliss, Texas, Nov. 23, 1945.

⑦ **GEORGE JOSEPH ISAAC, Shipfitter 2/C, USNCB**

Husband of Louise Haydel Isaac, Baton Rouge, and father of Kathleen Louise Isaac. He is the son of Tousaint Joseph Isaac and the late Melina Langlois Isaac of Ventress and attended Erwinville School. He entered the United States Naval Construction Battalions Nov. 27, 1942, and was assigned for training and duty to Camp Parks, Pleasanton, Calif. On March 27, 1943, he embarked for Hawaii and served on the Island of Guam in the Mariana Group with the Seabees. Returning to the States, he was discharged at New Orleans on Sept. 7, 1945.

⑧ **JOSEPH CLYDE BOURGEOIS,**
Master Technical Sergeant, Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Noel A. Bourgeois, Route 2, Gonzales, La. He was born Aug. 14, 1919, and attended St. Amant High School. Before the war he worked as a grocer, truck driver, mechanic helper and dragline oiler. Entering the service on Jan. 8, 1941, he had boot training at Parris Island, S. C., general duty at Quantico, Va., aviation mechanic's training at Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Fla., and aviation mechanic duty at Camp Kearney and El Toro Marine Air Station, Calif. On Oct. 15, 1942, he sailed for the Southwest Pacific, and served as an aviation mechanic through four campaigns, in New Caledonia, the New Hebrides, Solomon Islands, Hawaiian Islands and Philippine Islands. He was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation, the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon, American Defense Ribbon and Philippine Liberation Ribbon.

⑨ **EMMETT F. HAMILTON, S/Sgt., Air Forces**

He was born Sept. 28, 1919, and attended Oak Grove High School. He was a clerk prior to entering the Army Air Forces July 2, 1942. Sergeant Hamilton trained at Sheppard Field, Texas, Tyndall Field, Fla., Boise Army Air Base, Idaho, Salt Lake City, Utah, Walla Walla, Wash., and Sioux City, Iowa, also serving as an aerial gunner. He served at Salinas, Kan., DeRidder Army Air Base, Tampa, Fla., Gulfport, Miss., and Greensboro, N. C. On Feb. 3, 1943, he embarked for the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations and served as an engineer gunner in Africa, Italy and Sicily. On Nov. 1, 1944, he embarked for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and served in Calcutta and Karachi, India, as an engineer gunner. He fought in the Air Offensive over Europe, the Invasion of Sicily, and the Naples-Foggia Campaign. He has the Air Medal with seven Oak Leaf Clusters and the Purple Heart awarded for wounds received in Africa Aug. 5, 1943.

⑩ **WILLIAM S. HAMILTON, Corporal, Air Forces**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Hamilton. He was born June 4, 1923, and attended Oak Grove High School. He served as a clerk prior to entering the AAF May 25, 1943. He received training with the Medical Corps at Camp Robinson, and embarked Sept. 25, 1943, for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. He served in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, the Admiralty Islands, Morotai and Luzon in the Philippines with the Medical Corps. He fought in the Campaigns of the Northern Solomons, New Guinea and the Bismarck Archipelago. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged on Dec. 30, 1945.

⑪ **JENNINGS BRYAN WILLIAMS, Radioman 2/C, U.S.N.**

He was born April 28, 1923, and attended St. Amant and Gonzales High Schools. Entering the Navy on Dec. 13, 1940, he served at

the U. S. Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Va., the U. S. Destroyer Base at San Diego, and at Treasure Island, Calif., the Naval Air Station, Terminal Island, San Pedro, Calif., the Naval Auxiliary Air Station at Brown Field, Chula Vista, Calif., the Naval Hospital, San Diego, and the Public Health Service Hospital Navy Unit, Fort Worth, Texas. Radioman Williams went to Pearl Harbor with the USS Arizona March 28, 1941. He served also at the Submarine Base, Pearl Harbor, and CINCPAC Flag Allowance at Pearl Harbor. He was discharged at the Public Health Service Hospital Navy Unit at Fort Worth, Texas.

⑫ ADRIAN DELTON WILLIAMS, Seaman 1/C, U. S. N.

Son of William Thomas and Alice Urna Williams, Gonzales. He was born June 14, 1918, and attended Louisiana State University. He was engaged in farming and in soil conservation work prior to his induction into the Navy on Dec. 13, 1939. He served at the Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Va., with the USS Arizona, and at Long Beach, Calif., and Bremerton, Wash. With the USS Arizona he went to Hawaii in May, 1940. This gallant seaman was killed in the enemy assault on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941. He was posthumously awarded a special citation for performance of duty by President Roosevelt and the Purple Heart, received on Jan. 10, 1944. One of the first heroes of World War II, Seaman First Class Williams had been in service almost two years at the time of his death in the Jap attack.

⑬ BENSON CAPPER WILLIAMS, Baker 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Thomas Williams, Route 2, Gonzales, He was born Dec. 31, 1924, and attended Gonzales and St. Amant High Schools and Technical School, having been engaged in farming and construction work prior to his induction into the Navy on Sept. 24, 1943. He served at the Naval Training Station, Bainbridge, Md., the Naval Training School at Richmond, Va., and the Naval Repair Base at New Orleans. In March, 1944, he embarked for the Naval Seaplane Base on New Caledonia where he was assigned to duty. He served also with the Aviation Repair and Overhaul Unit on Guam in the Mariana Islands. He was discharged at New Orleans on May 15, 1946.

⑭ CARL EMIT WILLIAMS, Chief EM, U. S. Navy

Husband of Mrs. Lena Phylis Williams, 708 East 82nd Street, Los Angeles, Calif., and father of Shirley Mae Williams. He was born July 4, 1893, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Comer Williams of St. Amant, and attended St. Amant High School, being engaged in farming there until he entered the Navy in May, 1917, at Houston. He has served at Naval Bases in New York, Virginia, San Diego and Bremerton, Wash., in recruiting service at Portland, Ore., and at the Naval Base at San Pedro, Calif. He first went to the Pacific in 1919 and served at the U. S. Submarine Base at Pearl Harbor, the Naval Ammunition Depot at Lualualei, and with submarines and aircraft carriers in all theaters of war. He was discharged at San Diego in 1945.

⑮ DWIGHT LINCOLN WILLIAMS, Ensign, U. S. Naval Reserve

He was born Oct. 8, 1921, and attended Gonzales High School and St. Amant High School. He was engaged in farming and conservation work prior to his induction into the United States Navy on Nov. 5, 1941, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station at Algiers, he went to Fort Barrancas, Fla., U. S. Naval Aviation Schools at Mount Vernon, Iowa, Grand Junction, Col., St. Mary's College at Oakland, Calif., and the U. S. Naval Air Station at Norman, Okla. From the U. S. Naval Air Station (Aviation School) at Pensacola, Fla., he was assigned to duty at the U. S. Naval Air Station at Norfolk, Va., SOSU No. 2; to the U. S. Naval Air Station on Quonset Point, R. I., and to the USS Wilkes-Barre.

⑯ MILTON JOSEPH AMBEAU, JR., Aviation Metalsmith 2/C, U. S. N.

Husband of Ellen H. Ambeau of Gonzales and son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Joseph of Gonzales. He attended Gonzales High School and worked as a production mechanic prior to his induction into the United States Navy in April, 1937, at Los Angeles, Calif. From the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, he served with the USS Pensacola, at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans, and the Naval Air Station at Adak, Alaska. In October, 1939, he went to Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, and served in the Southwest Pacific. In November, 1943, he embarked for Adak, Alaska, and was assigned to duty in the Aleutian Islands. He was discharged at New Orleans (Algiers) Sept. 1, 1945.

⑰ HUGH L. AMBEAU, Tec/3, ATS, AUS

Husband of Zelphia Marie Ambeau of Gonzales and father of Hugh L. Ambeau, Jr. He was born March 25, 1919, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Joseph Ambeau of Gonzales. He attended Gonzales High School and Louisiana State University, working as a cabinet maker to the time of his induction into the Army on July 31, 1942. He served with a detached enlisted men's regiment at Camp Beauregard until assigned to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for overseas training. He embarked from Camp Beale, Calif., on Sept. 15, 1943, for the Aleutians Islands where he served for 15 months with the Army Transport Service, stationed at an outpost 60 miles west of Dutch Harbor in the Aleutians with the ATS. Returning to the States, he was discharged on Jan. 8, 1946.

⑱ JOHN KEITH AMBEAU, Seaman 1/C, USNR

He was born Feb. 13, 1927, and attended Gonzales High School. He had worked as a cabinet maker and as a butcher prior to his induction into the Naval Reserves at New Orleans on Oct. 23, 1944. He was assigned for recruit training to the United States Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., and went to Camp Elliott awaiting assignment to sea duty. With the USS Kitkun Bay he embarked from San Diego April 27, 1945, going to Pearl Harbor. He served on submarine patrol duty and convoy duty in the South Pacific aboard the baby flattop, USS Kitkun Bay, and fought in the Bombardment of Japan in June-August of 1945. He also served in the occupation of Northern Honshu Island in September, 1945, and the evacuation of prisoners of war from the island, and has the American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with Campaign Star, Third Fleet Ribbon with one Star and Victory Ribbon. He was discharged on June 17, 1946.

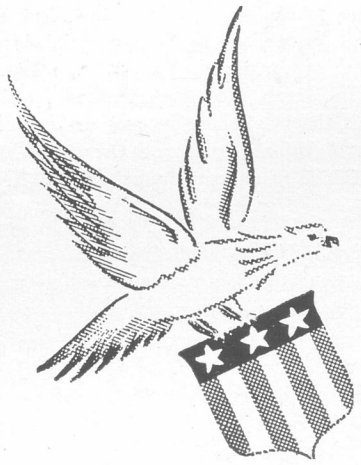
⑲ PRESTON LOUIS AMBEAU, JR., Sergeant, Air Forces

Husband of Gladys Viola Burgin of Glenmora and son of Mr. and Mrs. Preston L. Ambeau of Gonzales. He was born March 21, 1914, and attended Gonzales High School. He was a grocery clerk and warehouse clerk prior to his induction into the Army Air Forces on July 2, 1942, at New Orleans. He served at Sheppard Field, Texas, Aircraft Mechanics School, Chanute Field, Ill., Propeller Specialist School, and Langley Field and Richmond Army Air Base in Virginia, where he served as airplane mechanic and propeller specialist. He went to the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations on Jan. 11, 1944, and served at Barrackspore, India, as propeller specialist and airplane mechanic and engineer on C-87 and B-17 aircraft. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged on Dec. 7, 1945.

⑳ CLEVELAND L. AMBEAU, Sergeant, Air Forces

He was born April 11, 1909, and attended Gonzales High School, working as a cabinet maker. He entered the Army Air Forces on Aug. 1, 1942, at New Orleans and served at Camp Beauregard, St. Petersburg AAF Training Center, Fla., Army Air Forces Training School, Scott Field, Rantoul, Ill., Robins Field, Ga., and Fairmont Army Air Field, Fairmont, Neb., assigned to duty as radio operator. Sergeant Ambeau embarked for the South Pacific Nov. 30, 1944, going to Guam in the Mariana Islands as a radio operator. He served in this capacity throughout his period of overseas service. Returning to the States, Sergeant Ambeau was granted his discharge at San Antonio, Texas, on Nov. 19, 1945.

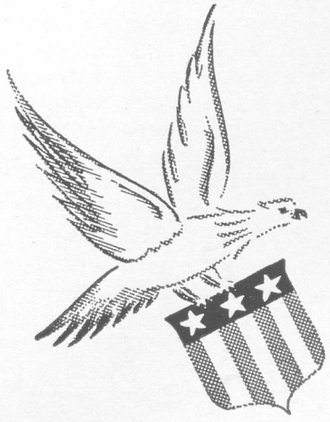




James Alexander Crawford

Captain, Armored Force, AUS

Son of Alexander Smith Crawford and Olive Harris Crawford of Donaldsonville, La. He was born April 6, 1917, and attended Donaldsonville and Belle Rose High Schools, and Louisiana State University. He was collaborator for Southern Division AAA and chief chemist for South Coast Corporation prior to entering the U. S. Army in the Armored Force at Fort Benning, Ga., in February, 1941. He served at Fort Benning, Camp Bowie, Texas, Camp Rucker, Ala., Camp Pickett, Va., and Fort Knox, Ky. Going to England for overseas service in February, 1944, he fought in the Invasion of Normandy, France, in which he was killed in action against the enemy on June 9, 1944, D-Day plus Three in the Invasion of Normandy. He has the Silver Star for gallantry in action and a citation by the commanding officer of the 82nd Airborne Division, the American Defense Service Medal, American Theater Ribbon, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with one Bronze Service Star for Normandy Campaign, World War II Victory Ribbon, Sharpshooter Badge with Submachine Gun, Machine Gun, and TD 75mm Bars, and the Marksman's Badge with Rifle, Pistol and Carbine Bars. James was cited by Major Garrison of the 760th Tank Battalion as the outstanding officer of the Battalion—one whose loyalty, integrity, high sense of duty and courage was not surpassed.





① JOSEPH LOUIS FREY

Staff Sergeant, Infantry

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Joseph Frey, 810 Monroe Street, Donaldsonville, La. He was born Dec. 26, 1923, and attended St. Vincent's Institute, Donaldsonville; St. Joseph's Commercial Institute, and attended Soule's College, New Orleans. Prior to entering the service he worked in the capacity of a filing clerk. Inducted into the Army at New Orleans, Feb. 26, 1943, he was assigned to Camp Beauregard, La. Assigned later to Fort Lewis, Wash., as a supply sergeant, he continued with the same duties at Camp Phillips, Kan., his last station in the United States. Embarking Sept. 5, 1944, he saw duty in France and Germany. In the bitter campaign of Northern France he was killed in action. His decorations include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, European Theater Ribbon with one Battle Star.



② CHARLES I. FREY

Lieutenant (jg), Naval Reserve

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Joseph Frey, 810 Monroe Street, Donaldsonville, La. He was born Nov. 18, 1922, and attended Loyola University prior to his entering service. Joining the Navy at New Orleans, Sept. 23, 1943, he was sent to Midshipman School at Notre Dame University. Later duty took him to Great Lakes Training Center as supply assistant, followed by a course at Harvard in Supply Corps School. Before leaving for overseas he was commissary officer at New Orleans Naval Repair Base. Leaving for the South Pacific Sept. 6, 1944, he saw duty in the Philippines, Okinawa, Korea and Japan as supply and disbursing officer aboard the USS R. W. Suesens DE 342. The invasions of Leyte, Luzon, Okinawa and the Occupation of Japan were assignments in which Lieutenant Frey saw action. Wearing the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three Battle Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Stars and the World War II Victory Medal, he is continuing service in the Navy until July, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① William A. Babin

② Noble F. Boudreaux

③ George Stirling Cannon

④ Murry A. Decoteau

⑤ Vernon Paul Decoteau

⑥ Woodrow J. Decoteau

⑦ Eldon Landry Singletary

⑧ James Emerson Singletary

⑨ Fellman Joseph Kling

⑩ Robert John Kling

⑪ Joseph Victor Gautreaux

⑫ Wilbert J. Gautreaux

⑬ Mervin P. Melancon

⑭ Murphy J. Melancon

⑮ Ashton Francis LeBlanc

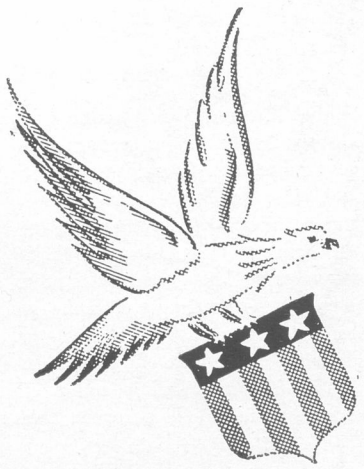
⑯ Delmayn J. LeBlanc

⑰ Harvey J. Kling

⑱ William James Roger

⑲ Joseph Euclide Roger

⑳ Roland W. Roger



① WILLIAM A. BABIN, Corporal, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph D. Babin of St. Amant. He was born Dec. 4, 1922, and attended St. Amant School. He was a farmer by occupation prior to entering the Army Air Forces May 25, 1943. He went to Amarillo, Texas, for basic training and was assigned to duty at Yuma Army Air Base in Arizona and Greensboro, N. C. Corporal Babin embarked for Liverpool May 13, 1944, and served in England, France, Belgium and Germany as a parachute rigger with the Army Air Forces. He fought in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, two Overseas Service Bars, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged at Seymour Johnson Field, N. C.

② NOBLE F. BOUDREAUX, T/4, Signal Corps

Husband of Mrs. Bettie Boudreaux, Gonzales, La. He was born Oct. 12, 1920, and worked as a farmer after completing the course at the Dutchtown High School. Entering the service Sept. 2, 1942, he was stationed for basic training at Camp Crowder, Mo., and at Keystone Schools, Pittsburgh, Pa., for training in radio communications and operations. He learned Japanese code at Two Rock Ranch, Petaluma, Calif. Leaving the United States Jan. 11, 1944, he served on Guadalcanal, Bougainville and Luzon, intercepting and decoding Japanese radio messages. He was awarded the American Theater Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the Victory Medal and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. On Jan. 9, 1946, he was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas.

③ GEORGE STIRLING CANNON, Second Lieutenant, Corps of Engineers

Son of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Cannon, Sorrento, La. He was born Sept. 21, 1924, and attended St. Amant High School and Louisiana State University. He entered service April 6, 1943, at Baton Rouge, La., and received training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Fort Belvoir, Va., and Camp Claiborne, La. He departed for England Dec. 26, 1944, and later saw duty in France. His overseas duty was extended to the Pacific Theater where he drew assignments at Okinawa and Korea. He was continuing to serve with the Corps of Engineers.

④ MURRY A. DECOTEAU, Captain, Air Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Hudgens P. Decoteau, Dutchtown, La. He was born May 15, 1921, and is a graduate of Dutchtown High School. Prior to his service with the Air Force he was a student at Louisiana State University. He entered service Jan. 8, 1942, at Jackson, Miss., and later became an aviation cadet at Maxwell Field, Ala. After attending Officers' Candidate School at Miami Beach, Fla., he became part of the 319 Bomb Group at Harding Field, La. He departed for England Sept. 27, 1942, and later saw duty in North Africa, Sicily and Italy. To his credit he has four major campaigns. He was honorably separated from the service Oct. 23, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑤ VERNON PAUL DECOTEAU, Gunner's Mate 3/C, Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Hudgens Paul Decoteau, Dutchtown, La. He was born Sept. 22, 1923, and is a graduate of Dutchtown High School. He entered service Dec. 1, 1942, and received boot training at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Ill. His assignments to ships included USS McCook (DD 496) and USS Thornhill (DD 195). He saw duty in all theaters of war, doing anti-submarine patrol duty in the North Atlantic, and taking an active part in the invasions of Normandy and Southern France. He received his discharge Jan. 11, 1946, at New Orleans.

⑥ WOODROW J. DECOTEAU, S/Sgt., Air Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Hudgens Decoteau, Dutchtown, La. He was born Dec. 30, 1918, and was educated at Dutchtown High School and Louisiana State University. He entered service June 25, 1941, and received training at numerous camps including Camp Shelby, Camp Polk, Santa Ana Army Air Base, and Drew Field, Fla. He was assigned as gunner on B-17 aircraft, the position he held while in combat. Based in England, he flew 31 combat missions over Germany during the battles of Ardennes, Central Germany and the Rhineland. He is decorated with the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters and Distinguished Unit Citation. He received his discharge Aug. 14, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑦ ELDON LANDRY SINGLETARY, PFC, Army

Husband of Giovanni Diez Singletary of Dutchtown and son of Rederick Manard Singletary and Mary Josephine West Singletary of Route 2, Gonzales. He attended Gonzales High School and was a machinist apprentice prior to entering the Army of the United States at New Orleans on Oct. 23, 1943. He went from Camp Beauregard to Fort Worden, Port Townsend, Washington, Fort Casey and Fort Ebey, Wash. He served at Camp Howze, Texas, Fort George G. Meade, Md., and Camp Campbell, Ky. On April 3, 1945, he embarked for the European Theater of Operations and was assigned to duty in Germany. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon and was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Feb. 6, 1946.

⑧ JAMES EMERSON SINGLETARY, Torpedoman 2/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Bessie Marie Keller Singletary of Route 2, Gonzales, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Rederick Manard Singletary of Gonzales. He was born Sept. 10, 1920, and attended Gonzales High School. He was with the Civilian Conservation Corps to Sept. 30, 1939, and enlisted in the United States Navy Dec. 5, 1939, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station at Norfolk, Va., he went to San Diego to board ship, and served with the USS Idaho, then the USS Canopus. He embarked Jan. 17, 1941, for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations and was stationed in the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines, where he fought with the heroic troops at Cavite, Manila, Bataan and Corregidor. This gallant seaman was captured by the enemy May 6, 1942, at Corregidor and was a prisoner of war to Sept. 10, 1945, at Bilibid Prison on Cabantuan, Formosa, Tokyo and Kamashi, Japan. He has the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Presidential Unit Citation and Asiatic-Pacific, Philippine Liberation Ribbons.

⑨ FELLMAN JOSEPH KLING, PFC, Infantry

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kling, Dutchtown, La. He was born Nov. 10, 1919, and is a graduate of Dutchtown High School. Prior to his service with the Army he worked as a farmer. He entered the service Jan. 9, 1941, at Montgomery, Ala. His later assignments included Fort Jackson, S. C., Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Camp Forrest, Tenn. He departed for North Ireland Dec. 4, 1943, and later saw duty in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. He fought in the battles of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. These campaigns rate him four Stars on his European Theater Ribbon. He was discharged Sept. 14, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑩ ROBERT JOHN KLING, Naval Reserve

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kling, Dutchtown, La. He was born Jan. 27, 1919, and was a graduate of Dutchtown High School, Dutchtown, La. The exact date of his entrance into the United States Naval Reserve is not known but his sea duty took him into the Pacific Theater of Operations where he participated in many landings and sea operations. He was declared killed in action on Feb. 19, 1945, in the area of Iwo Jima, in one of the battles waged for its control.

⑪ JOSEPH VICTOR GAUTREAUX, Fireman 1/C, U. S. Navy (R)

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Gautreaux of St. Amant. He was born Sept. 27, 1926, and attended St. Amant High School. He was with Weller Fire Department, Istrouma, Baton Rouge, prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve April 18, 1944, at New Orleans. He served at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Camp Elliott, and the U. S. Naval Amphibious Training Base, Oceanside, and Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif. On Nov. 23, 1944, he embarked for Pearl Harbor and served in the Pacific, the North China Sea, the South China Sea and the Yellow Sea, as Fireman First Class and with the Beach Battalion. He was in combat at Iwo Jima and Okinawa and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Stars, the Philippine Liberation and American Theater Ribbons, and has been recommended for the Purple Heart. He was honorably discharged Feb. 6, 1946, at New Orleans.

⑫ WILBERT J. GAUTREAUX, Seaman 1/C, USCGR

Son of Victor Joseph Gautreaux of St. Amant. He was born Feb. 10, 1923, and attended St. Amant High School. Entering the United States Coast Guard Reserve on Oct. 9, 1942, at New Orleans, he served at the Coast Guard Training Stations at New Orleans and St. Augustine, Fla., at the Coast Guard Beach Patrol Station, Hollywood, Fla., and with U. S. Coast Guard Cutter 74323 at Key West and New Smyrna Beach, Fla. He attended Coast Guard Radio School at Atlantic City, N. J., and was at the Coast Guard Training Station, Manhattan Beach, the Brooklyn Coast Guard Station and Fort Lauderdale, Fla. In October, 1944, he embarked on mine field patrols. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and was discharged on Oct. 2, 1945.

⑬ MERVIN P. MELANCON, Technical Sergeant, AAF

He was born March 1, 1920, and attended Dutchtown and Gonzales Schools. On Oct. 16, 1940, he entered the Army Air Forces at New Orleans and went to Jefferson Barracks, Mo., for recruit training. Sergeant Melancon served at Lowry Field, Denver, Col. (Air Corps Technical School) and at Langley Field, Va., Ellington Field, Texas, Muroc Army Air Base, Calif., and Moore Field, Texas, as an administrative clerk. On Jan. 31, 1942, he embarked for the Far East. He served in Australia as squadron sergeant major, in Dobura, New Guinea, in the same capacity, and at Nadzab, N. G., and on Owi Island, Netherlands East Indies, as squadron sergeant major. He fought in the Campaigns of the Netherlands East Indies, Papua, New Guinea, and the Bismarck Archipelago. He has the American Defense Service Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal, and a Presidential Citation for the Papuan Campaign.

⑭ MURPHY J. MELANCON, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Evelie M. Melancon of Gonzales. He was born April 2, 1917, and attended Dutchtown and Gonzales Schools. On May 20, 1942, he entered the Army of the United States at Camp Livingston and was assigned for training and staging to Camp Shelby, Miss., and Fort Dix, N. J. Sergeant Melancon embarked for the European Theater of Operations Jan. 1, 1944, and fought in the campaigns of Rome-Arno, the North Apennines, and the Po Valley. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Bronze Star Medal for heroic and meritorious achievement in action against the enemy, and the Good Conduct Medal. Sergeant Melancon received his discharge Oct. 21, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑮ ASHTON FRANCIS LeBLANC, S/Sgt., Field Artillery

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Evariste LeBlanc, Dutchtown, La. He attended Dutchtown High School and worked as a bartender prior to entry into the service. He joined the Army April 4, 1941, at Camp Shelby, Miss., and received training at Fort Bragg, N. C., as ammunition sergeant. Departing for New Caledonia March 4, 1942, he later saw duty in Guadalcanal, Northern Solomons, and Southern Philippines. He is the wearer of battle stars for the above campaigns, plus a Bronze Star Medal. He was separated from the service Aug. 29, 1945, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

⑯ DELMAYN J. LeBLANC, Corporal, Infantry

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Evariste LeBlanc, Dutchtown, La. He was born Sept. 6, 1919, and is a graduate of Dutchtown High School. Prior to his service with the Army he was employed in oil field work. He entered service March 6, 1941, at Camp Livingston, La., and received training at Camp Blanding, Fla., and Camp Bowie, Texas. He departed for England Sept. 25, 1942, and saw duty in Africa, Italy, France and Germany as guard attached to Military Police. Participation in Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns, won him four Battle Stars. He was honorably separated from the service Sept. 3, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

⑰ HARVEY J. KLING, PFC, Artillery, AUS

Husband of Velda Marie Lambert Kling of Sorrento and father of Leslie Adam Kling. He was born Feb. 10, 1925, the son of Leslie and Lorence Trabeaux Kling, and attended St. Amant High School. He was in lumber work prior to entering the Army at Camp Beauregard on July 30, 1943. He received basic Artillery training at Fort Sill, Okla., took part in the Louisiana Maneuvers prior to going to Camp Bowie, Texas, for combat training and Camp Hood for overseas processing. He embarked for the European Theater of Operations where he served for 16 months and 22 days. After staging in England, he was in action in France, Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia. He fought in the Campaign of Southern France, the Battle of the Belgian Bulge in the Ardennes, and the Rhineland. He has the Certificate of Merit and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Stars. He was discharged Nov. 29, 1945.

⑱ WILLIAM JAMES ROGER, TM 2/C, U. S. Navy (R)

Son of the late Euclide Joseph and Noelie Boudreaux Roger of Donaldsonville. He was born July 26, 1925, and attended Donaldsonville High School. He was inducted in his senior year into the United States Naval Reserve at New Orleans Oct. 30, 1943. He attended the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., and TM School at San Diego, embarking in May, 1944, for the Pacific area. He was commended by Commander George T. Boldizsar, Seventh Amphibious Force, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and Philippine Liberation Ribbons with Campaign Stars and the American Theater of Operations and Victory Ribbons. He was discharged March 26, 1946.

⑲ JOSEPH EUCLIDE ROGER, Seaman 1/C, U. S. N.

Husband of Margaret Florence Roger, 252 Second Street, Elyria, Ohio, and son of the late Euclide Joseph and Noelie Boudreaux Roger, Donaldsonville. He was born Jan. 19, 1918, and attended St. Joseph's, Donaldsonville, and Brothers School, Metuchen, N. J. He was a religious brother prior to entering the United States Navy Dec. 26, 1939, at New Orleans. On June 19, 1944, he went to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. He was in combat in the Campaign of the Marshall Islands. Seaman First Class Roger lost his life in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Oct. 22, 1944.

⑳ ROLAND W. ROGER, Tec/4, SC, AUS

Husband of Jeanne C. Landry of Napoleonville. He was born Oct. 23, 1919, the son of the late Euclide Joseph and Noelie Boudreaux Roger of Donaldsonville, and attended Donaldsonville High and Catholic High Schools. He was a distributor for Standard Oil Company prior to entering the Army in the Signal Corps Dec. 12, 1942. He served at Camp Maxey, Texas, assigned to duty as a lineman (telephone) and automotive mechanic. Embarking for the European Theater Dec. 24, 1943, he served in Ireland, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Czechoslovakia and Austria. He was assigned to duty as a lineman (trouble shooting), and was in combat in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the American and European Theater Ribbons, Good Conduct and Victory Medals, and was discharged Dec. 14, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

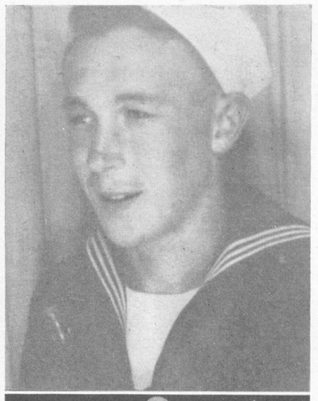
① Carmon Joseph Bercegeay

Seaman First Class, U. S. Navy

Son of Rudolph Bercegeay, Gonzales, La. He was born Sept. 3, 1925, and attended Gonzales High School. He was inducted Aug. 31, 1943, at New Orleans, and received his Boot Training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif.; and additional training at Shoemaker, Calif., after which he was assigned to the USS Louisville. On Jan. 29, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theatre, and he served aboard the USS Louisville throughout that area, participating in several battles and campaigns. He was awarded the Purple Heart June 5, 1945, for wounds received at Okinawa, and he has also the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with eight battle stars, and the Philippine Liberation Medal with two battle stars, and the American Theater of Operations Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on Dec. 9, 1945.



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② Eldwin J. Melancon

Signalman Third Class, U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Easley and Inez Melancon, of Prairieville, La. He was born Dec. 26, 1923, attended Dutchtown High School, and was an Installer for Western Electric Co. prior to entering the service. He was inducted Sept. 29, 1942, at New Orleans, and received his training at the New Orleans Staging Area; the Coast Guard Barracks, Galveston, Texas; Beach Patrol Station 618, Matagorda, Texas; and Manhattan Beach Training Station, New York. On April 12, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he served at Milne Bay, New Guinea; the Philippine Islands, Japan and Okinawa. He has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal with one battle star, and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with one battle star. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans, April 24, 1946.

③ Morgan H. Fremin, Jr.

Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Dorothy Landry Fremin and Darrow and father of Max Fremin. He was born July 10, 1923, and is the son of Morgan H. and Elizabeth Moore Fremin of Darrow. A graduate of Donaldsonville High School, he was an expediter for Delta Shipyard prior to entering the Army of the U. S. in the Transportation Corps on Jan. 10, 1944, at Donaldsonville. He received training at Camp Plauche, New Orleans, Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla., and Camp Ross, Wilmington, Calif., prior to embarking June 26, 1945, for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. He served in Manila as mail clerk with the 35th Transportation Corps Service Group Headquarters, keeping records and money and handling the mail. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal, and was granted his honorable discharge May 4, 1946, at the Separation Center at Fort Bliss, Texas.

④ Feltus J. Gautreau

Infantry, U. S. Army

Died in the bitter fighting at St. Lo in the Campaign of Normandy. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alcide James Gautreau of Gonzales and was born Feb. 2, 1924. He attended Gonzales High School and entered the Army of the United States in the Infantry at Camp Fannin, Texas, where he received training at the Infantry Replacement Training Center. Going to the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations, he received combat training and staging in the United Kingdom and took part in the assault invasion of Normandy over the beaches. He was in combat from D-Day to his death in action against the enemy on July 3, 1944, in Normandy, France, during the great Battle for St. Lo. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart which was presented to his family, Mr. and Mrs. Alcide James Gautreau of Gonzales, on Sept. 20, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN *of* LOUISIANA



① Marguerite Helen Fairbanks

② Dudley A. Buyas

③ Eugene B. Thibeau

④ Eugene O. Causey

⑤ Arthur August Lass

⑥ Warren Victor Lass

⑦ Adam J. Hebert

⑧ Armand Joseph Hebert

⑨ Eugene M. Gautreau

⑩ William Joseph Little, Jr.

⑪ Sammy T. Little

⑫ Louis D. Fairbanks

⑬ Lucien James Berteau, Jr.

⑭ Clarence Joseph Berteau

⑮ Murry J. Stevens

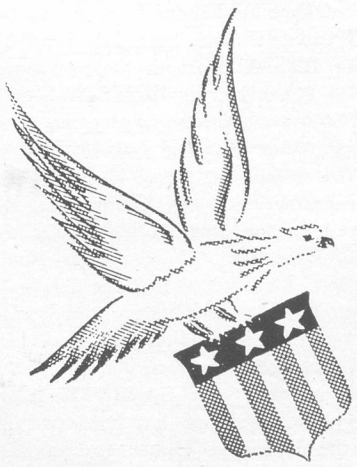
⑯ Alton Leon Stevens

⑰ Wilfred Owen Stevens

⑱ Murphy John Johnson

⑲ Elwood John Gautreaux

⑳ Leolan Joseph Gautreaux



① MARGUERITE HELEN FAIRBANKS, Sergeant, Women's Army Corps

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Fairbanks of Gonzales. She was born Sept. 8, 1920, and attended Dufrocq and Sacred Heart Schools, Baton Rouge, and Gonzales High School. She was employed by Southern Bell Telephone Company, New Orleans, and by Gonzales Truckers, Inc., prior to entering the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps March 15, 1943. She re-enlisted Sept. 1, 1943, in the Women's Army Corps. From the WAAC Training Center, Fort Des Moines, Iowa, she attended administrative specialist school, Des Moines, and went to Boston Information Center as teletype operator, cryptographic clerk, PBX operator, telegraph operator, Civilian Air Raid warning operator, and on general air warning duty. At Chatham Army Air Base, Savannah, Ga., she served with the Adjutant Section, Base Headquarters, and as section head of Information and Reception Center. Sergeant Fairbanks has the Good Conduct Medal, the WAAC Service Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon and the Victory Ribbon. She was discharged Nov. 19, 1945.

② DUDLEY A. BUYAS, Chief S/K, U. S. Navy

Husband of Mary Violet Buyas of Gonzales, and father of Donald Arthur Buyas. He was born Dec. 29, 1913, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Dudley Buyas. He is a graduate of S. J. Peters Boys' High School of Commerce, New Orleans, and was engaged in finance, credit and sales work prior to entering the United States Navy Aug. 28, 1941, at New Orleans. He served with Eighth Naval District Headquarters, New Orleans, and U. S. Navy Frontier Base, Burwood. He was with the U. S. Navy Pre-Commissioning Detail, New Orleans and served in the Pacific area with USS Chatham AK 169, beginning his sea duty Feb. 22, 1945. Returning to the States, Chief Storekeeper (Disbursing) Buyas was granted his discharge Jan. 11, 1946.

③ EUGENE B. THIBEAU, Flight Officer, AAF

Husband of Melva Richardson Thibeau and father of Gloria Gene and Eugene B. Thibeau, Jr. He attended Oak Grove High School and Louisiana State University and entered the AAF on Nov. 5, 1942. He was assigned for training to Selman Field, Monroe, Stillwater, Okla., and SAAC, San Antonio, Texas, serving at Hondo Army Air Field, Texas, Amarillo Army Air Base, Amarillo, Texas, and Lowry Field, Denver, Col., and at Roswell Army Air Base, Roswell, N. M. Flight Officer Thibeau received his commission Feb. 3, 1945, as navigator on a B-29 bomber aircraft. He received his certificate for flight engineering July 22, 1945. Flight Officer Thibeau received a broken neck in a B-29 bomber crash and remained partially paralyzed. He was in Kennedy General Hospital, Memphis, Tenn., where he remained in the Paraplegic Center for further treatment.

④ EUGENE O. CAUSEY, PFC, Marine Corps

Husband of Mrs. Joyce Causey of Galvez and son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver T. Causey. He was born Dec. 21, 1921, and attended Oak Grove and Galvez Schools. He was a farmer, sawmill operator and painter prior to entering the United States Marine Corps on June 18, 1940, at Des Moines, Iowa. He served with the Marine Corps in Iceland, the Solomon Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Mariana Islands, British Samoa and the Hawaiian Islands. He was in combat in the Marine action on Kwajalein Atoll, the Marshall Islands, Eniwetok Atoll, and Guam, Mariana Islands. He has the American Defense Service and Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbons with Campaign Stars, the Qualified Rifle and Pistol Marksman Badges. He was granted his discharge on June 15, 1945, at New Orleans.

⑤ ARTHUR AUGUST LASS, S/Sgt., Air Forces

Son of Arthur Victor and Mary Novy Lass, Route 2, Gonzales. He was born Jan. 21, 1923, and attended Gonzales High School and St. Amant High School. Entering the Army Air Forces July 1, 1942, at Camp Livingston, he went from Camp Beauregard to Sioux City Army Air Base, Sioux City, South Dakota, where he attended Radio School. He attended Radar School at Boca Raton Army Air Field, Boca Raton, Fla., and served as a radio and radar mechanic at Eglin Field, Fla., and Maxwell Field, Montgomery, Ala. He has the Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. Staff Sergeant Lass was discharged at Maxwell Field, Ala., on Jan. 15, 1946.

⑥ WARREN VICTOR LASS, Tec/Sgt., Air Forces

Husband of Leda Mae Lass of Port Vincent and son of Arthur Victor and Mary Novy Lass. He was born Dec. 5, 1920, and attended Gonzales High School and St. Amant High School. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to entering the AAF on Sept. 28, 1940. He served at Barksdale Field, Shreveport, at Tucson Army Air Base, Tucson, Ariz., at Muroc Army Air Base, Calif., at Esler Field, Alexandria, at Fort Dix, N. J., at Santa Ana AAB, Calif., and at Moore Field, Texas. Technical Sergeant Lass served overseas Sept. 26, 1942, to March 13, 1945, and was AAF Supply Technician in England, Africa, Sicily, Italy, India and Burma. He was in combat in Algeria, French Morocco, and in the India-Burma Campaign. He has the Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal.

⑦ ADAM J. HEBERT, T/5, Signal Corps

Husband of Gemma Gaudio, Dutchtown, La. He was born March 13, 1913, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lucien J. Hebert, Dutchtown, La., and operated a farm as an occupation before his entry into the service. He entered the Signal Corps March 7, 1943, and had assignments taking him to Camps Crowder, Mo., Beauregard, La., and Kilmer, N. J. He sailed for overseas Dec. 11, 1943, and saw duty in Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. He participated in the campaigns of Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Apennines, Central Europe and Rhineland. He wears a unit citation for Meritorious Service and World War II Victory Ribbon. At Camp Shelby, Miss., he received his discharge Nov. 14, 1945.

⑧ ARMAND JOSEPH HEBERT, Seaman 1/C, Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lucien J. Hebert, Dutchtown, La. He attended Dutchtown High School and worked as a farmer prior to his service with the Navy. He entered service Feb. 10, 1943, and received boot training at U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif. His assignment was aboard the USS Pennsylvania, operating in the Pacific. Duty took him into the battles of Kiska, Makin, Marshall Islands, Saipan, Tinian, Lingayen Gulf and Wake Island. He was awarded the Navy Unit Citation and was continuing to serve at this date.

⑨ EUGENE M. GAUTREAU, Tec/5, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Gautreau of Gonzales. He was born Jan. 13, 1925, and attended Gonzales High School. He operated a heavy truck prior to entering the Army of the United States on June 15, 1944. He served at Camp Wheeler, Ga., Fort Meade, Md., and Camp Butner, N. C., embarking Dec. 9, 1944, for the European Theater of Operations. He served in Germany, France and Belgium and fought in the Campaigns of the Rhineland, Central Europe and the Ardennes. He was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge. Returning to the States, he was granted his discharge at Camp Butner, N. C., on Jan. 18, 1946.

⑩ WILLIAM JOSEPH LITTLE, JR., Tec/Sgt., Air Forces

Husband of Mary Anita Little and father of Allen Louis Little. He was born Sept. 16, 1918. He attended Holy Cross College and was a district manager for the Times-Picayune Publishing Company. On Nov. 14, 1942, he entered the Army Air Forces and was assigned to Lake Charles Army Air Base. He served at Aloe Field (Crew Chief School), Keesler Field and Camp Corsair and Kearns, Utah. He attended gunnery school at Laredo AAF, Texas, and went to

Salt Lake City for crew assignment. From Alexandria AAF, Grand Island, Neb., Langley Field, Va., and Camp Patrick Henry, he went to Foggia, Italy, on April 8, 1944, with the 453rd Bombardment Group, 772nd Bombardment Squadron, as engineer-gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress. He flew 35 combat missions over enemy territory in Europe and was wounded in action over Germany on his eighth mission June 13, 1944. He has the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct Medal and three Campaign Stars.

⑪ SAMMY T. LITTLE, Seaman 1/C, USCG

Son of Mrs. Myrtle White Gautreau of Gonzales. He was born Jan. 18, 1924, and is a graduate of Gonzales High School, enlisting in the United States Coast Guard Sept. 1, 1942, at New Orleans. He served on beach patrol duty in the industrial area at Lake Charles and attended Quartermaster School at Brooklyn, N. Y., going to Portsmouth, Va., on port security duty. He participated in the initial assault landings on Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars and the American Theater of Operations Ribbon. Seaman First Class Little was granted his honorable discharge from the U. S. Coast Guard at New Orleans Nov. 5, 1945.

⑫ LOUIS D. FAIRBANKS, Seaman 1/C, USCG

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Dawson Fairbanks of St. Amant. He was born Oct. 31, 1922, and attended St. Amant High School. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to entering the United States Coast Guard at New Orleans on Aug. 1, 1942. He served at Baton Rouge in port security duty (COTP) until he embarked for New Guinea Sept. 28, 1944. From Pearl Harbor he served on Guadalcanal in the Solomons, in New Guinea, Biak, Leyte, Manila and Palawan, Philippine Islands, Okinawa, and Iwo Jima. Returning to the States, he was discharged at New Orleans on March 8, 1946.

⑬ LUCIEN JAMES BERTEAU, JR., Ph M 2/C, DP, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lucien James Berteau of Gonzales. He was born Sept. 7, 1922, and was graduated from Gonzales High School prior to entering the Naval Reserve April 23, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned for training to United States Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., and Hospital Corps School, Great Lakes, Ill. He served at the United States Marine Base, Quantico, Va., and the Marine Air Station at Cherry Point, N. C. He was assigned to duty at the Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., the Seabee Training Unit Camp at Camp Peary, Va., and the Subchaser Training Center at Miami. On Feb. 12, 1945, he embarked for the U. S. Navy Base at San Juan, Puerto Rico, and served at the Naval Air Station, San Juan and the NAS, British West Indies, Port of Spain and Trinidad. He was discharged at New Orleans, Feb. 2, 1946.

⑭ CLARENCE JOSEPH BERTEAU, United States Naval Reserve

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lucien James Berteau of Gonzales. He was born Aug. 12, 1927, and was graduated from Gonzales High School prior to entering the United States Navy Nov. 20, 1944, at New Orleans. He was assigned to the United States Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif., for basic recruit training, then went to Hospital Corps School, San Diego. He was assigned to duty with the Naval Hospital in Corpus Christi, Texas, and to duty with the Personnel Separation Center, Memphis, Tenn.

⑮ MURRY J. STEVENS, PFC, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Edward Stevens, Route 2, Gonzales. He was born May 28, 1925, and attended St. Amant High School. Entering the Army Nov. 13, 1944, at Camp Beauregard, he served at Fort Worden and Fort Ebey, Port Townsend, Wash., as a basic trainee and gunner, then went to Camp Howze, Texas, Infantry Replacement Training Center, for infantry training. On April 2, 1945, he went to the European Theater where he served in Munich as a gunner and in Austria operating a half-track, and in France and England. He was in combat in the Campaign of Central Europe and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged on May 6, 1946.

⑯ ALTON LEON STEVENS, Army Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Edward Stevens, Route 2, Gonzales. He was born Dec. 14, 1927, and attended St. Amant High School at St. Amant, Ascension Parish. Entering the Army Air Forces on Feb. 1, 1946, at Camp Chaffee, Ark., he served at San Antonio, Texas, and at Grand Island, Neb., prior to going to Alaska with the Army Air Forces assigned to duty in the construction of air bases in Alaska. He served in Alaska and the Aleutians throughout his term of overseas duty and was continuing to serve with the AAF in the American Theater of Operations.

⑰ WILFRED OWEN STEVENS, Sergeant, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Edward Stevens, Route 2, Gonzales. He was born April 21, 1920, and attended St. Amant High School, St. Amant. He entered the Army Air Forces on Feb. 10, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, and went to Keesler Field, Biloxi, Miss., as a basic trainee, remaining there as a non-commissioned officer. He was sent to Dyersburg Army Air Field, Dyersburg, Tenn., for overseas training, and embarked March 30, 1945, for England where he served with the 303rd Bombardment Group and the 385th Bombardment Group as tail gunner on B-17 aircraft. He flew four combat missions over enemy targets in Germany prior to Victory in Europe Day. He has the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, the American Theater and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Campaign Star. He was discharged Dec. 10, 1945.

⑱ MURPHY JOHN JOHNSON, Private, U. S. Army

Husband of Mrs. Luvania Braud Gautreaux Johnson of Prairieville and father of Judy Ann Johnson. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Louis Johnson of Duplessis. He is a graduate of Dutchtown High School and was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to induction into the Army of the United States (Infantry) on March 7, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Camp Beauregard on detached service and went to Fort Benning, Ga., for basic infantry. He served with the Military Police at Camp Wheeler, Ga., and as a prisoner of war guard at Opelika, Ala. He also served with the Corps of Military Police at Camp Claiborne. He was discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss.

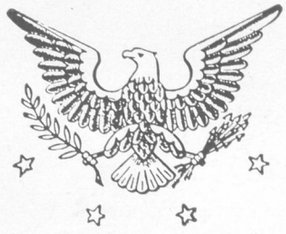
⑲ ELWOOD JOHN GAUTREAUX, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Murphy Johnson and the late Estress Joseph Gautreaux of Prairieville. He was born Aug. 3, 1926, and was graduated from Dutchtown High School prior to entering the United States Navy July 29, 1944, at New Orleans. He was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., for training, and to the Amphibious Training Base at Coronado, Calif., for further training. In November, 1944, he embarked for Pearl Harbor. He served in the Marshall Islands, the Caroline Islands, the Philippine Islands. He was stationed at Manila, on Leyte, on Okinawa, and served in the occupation of Japan, on duty in troop transportation with the Navy. He was discharged at New Orleans on March 3, 1946.

⑳ LEOLAN JOSEPH GAUTREAUX, Coxswain, U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Mrs. Murphy Johnson and the late Estress Joseph Gautreaux of Prairieville. After graduating from Dutchtown High School he was engaged in construction work until he entered the United States Coast Guard Sept. 29, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned to duty at Galveston, Texas, Matagorda, Texas, and San Francisco, Calif., prior to departing for Alaska in March, 1943. He served in the North and South Pacific on convoy and submarine patrol duty. Returning to the States, he was granted his discharge at New Orleans March 15, 1946, after three and one-half years of unselfish and efficient service.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

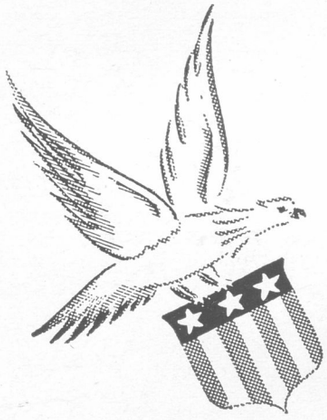


① Grady Lavelle Nettles

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Nettles of Greensburg, La., he was born Nov. 3, 1922, and attended school at Greensburg and Hammond, La., Southeastern Louisiana College and Baton Rouge Business College. Nettles entered the armed forces March 26, 1943, and received training at Kearns Field, Utah, Blythe Army Air Field, Blythe, Calif., and Camp Howze, Texas. He departed Feb. 19, 1945, for overseas where he participated in the bitter fighting of the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. Sergeant Nettles was awarded the European-African- Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. After more than three years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged April 15, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.









② James M. Gaynes

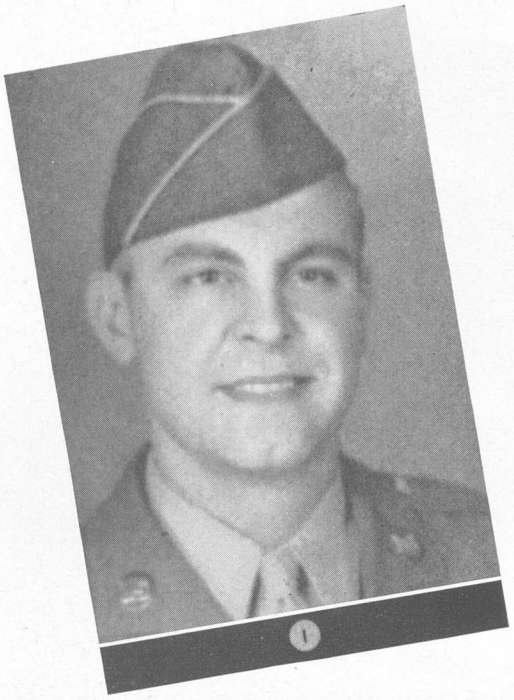
PFC, Infantry, AUS

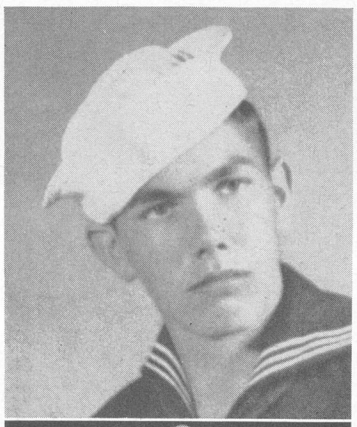
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Denzil Hilton Gaynes of Pine Grove. He was born Aug. 15, 1925, and attended Pine Grove High School. He was engaged in dairy farming and the creamery business prior to entering the Army Dec. 18, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Camp Roberts, Calif., Fort Ord, Calif., Camp Butner, N. C., Fort Ord and Fort George G. Meade, Md. Embarking Nov. 10, 1944, for Liverpool, he served in France, Belgium, Germany, Holland and Czechoslovakia, assigned to duty as a rifleman. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, the American Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby May 6, 1946.

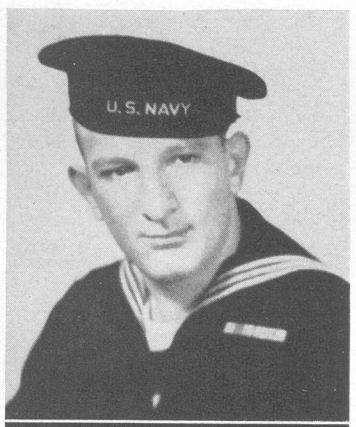
③ William Henry Bond

United States Navy

Husband of Fern Lorraine Gaus Bond, they are now living at Carlsbad, Calif. He is the son of Mrs. Nannie Bond and the late Henry G. Bond, Montpelier, La. He was born April 23, 1926. He attended the Livingston Parish Fourth Ward Grammar School and the Albany and Baton Rouge High Schools. Before entering the service he was driver of a newspaper truck. He entered the service May 2, 1944, at Baton Rouge and was sent to Oceanside, Calif., and later to the U. S. Naval Training Center at San Diego, Calif. On Aug. 13, 1945, he sailed for the Hawaiian Islands where he remained. After two years of service he was discharged June 5, 1946.







① Henry Lancaster Cockerham

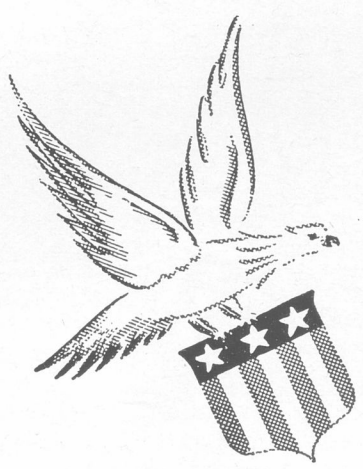
Staff Sergeant, Army of U. S.

Husband of Maxie Lee Brown Cockerham of Denham Springs and father of Jimmie Maurice Cockerham, a daughter. He was born Jan. 11, 1915, the son of Mr. and Mrs. M. K. Cockerham of Denham Springs, and attended Denham Springs High School and Louisiana State University. He was with the Agriculture Adjustment Administration located at Louisiana State University prior to induction into the Army at Camp Livingston on May 26, 1942. Staff Sergeant Cockerham served at Camp Livingston, Camp Pickett, Va., Camp Blanding, Fla., Fort Belvoir, Va., Camp Forrest, Tenn., the Desert Training Center in California and Camp Phillips, Kan. In April, 1944, he embarked for England and after combat staging in the United Kingdom, went to France. Staff Sergeant Cockerham lost his life in the service of his country in France on Aug. 3, 1944.

② Howard A. McMorris

S 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Ross McMorris of Livingston, La., he was born June 28, 1926. McMorris attended school at Doyle, La., and prior to his enlistment was employed by Wolf's Bakery at Baton Rouge. Entering the U. S. Navy Sept. 2, 1943, he received training at San Diego, Calif., Oceanside, Calif., and San Bruno, Calif. McMorris departed April 1, 1944, for the South Pacific where he participated in the bitter fighting at Saipan and Guam. He was discharged Jan. 4, 1946.



③ Clarence Bruce Broussard

Pharmacist's Mate, 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Louis Broussard of Port Allen, La., and husband of Mae LeJeune Broussard, he was born Jan. 4, 1924, and attended Port Allen High School and Spencer Business College. Broussard entered the service Dec. 8, 1942, and was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for training. He was assigned to the Medical Hospital Corps School at San Diego. He departed Oct. 27, 1943, for overseas and participated in the Invasion of Apamama, Gilbert Islands and Battle of Iwo Jima. Broussard is the holder of a Presidential Citation, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with two Bronze Stars and Good Conduct Ribbon. After more than three years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged Jan. 16, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Dodd H. Barnett

② Charles Lynn Barnett

③ Joe Lee Allen

④ James V. Clement

⑤ Archie E. Truax

⑥ Robert J. Truax

⑦ Joseph C. Guillot

⑧ Pink E. Guillot

⑨ Louis A. Ivanyisky

⑩ Paul L. Ivanyisky

⑪ Alexandria M. Ivanyisky

⑫ Luther E. Palmer

⑬ William Henry Turnley, Jr.

⑭ Charles R. Turnley

⑮ Leroy N. Arceneaux

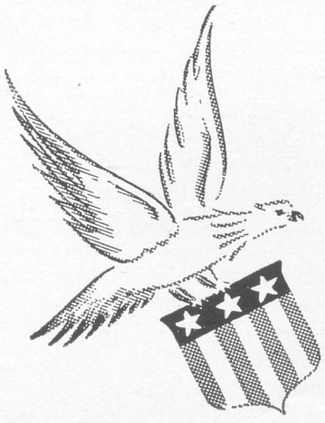
⑯ Calvin J. Arceneaux

⑰ Joseph Winifred Mercier

⑱ Glenn Phillip Efferson

⑲ Albert J. Crowder

⑳ George Riley Miller





① DODD H. BARNETT, 1st Lt., U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ford Barnett of Denham Springs, La., and husband of Betty Jane Barnett, he was born Aug. 15, 1915. Barnett attended Denham Springs High School and Summit (Miss.) Junior College. Entering the service Jan. 6, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Elliott, Calif., for training, later being sent to Camp Pendleton, Calif. He departed Jan. 24, 1943, for overseas and participated in the bitter combat of the Northern Solomons, Bougainville, Guam and Iwo Jima. Lieutenant Barnett was awarded a Unit and Individual Commendation and the Purple Heart. After three years of meritorious service he was discharged Jan. 6, 1946. He is the father of Donald Jack Barnett.

② CHARLES LYNN BARNETT, Captain, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ford Barnett of Denham Springs, La., he was born Sept. 19, 1916. Barnett attended Denham Springs High School. Entering the service Feb. 26, 1941, at Fort Knox, Ky., he was assigned to Camp Polk, La., and Fort Benning, Ga. As a member of the 82nd Airborne Division Captain Barnett departed in April, 1943, and saw action in Sicily, Italy, France, Germany and North Africa. He was drowned in the Rhine River April 12, 1945, while on active duty. This gallant soldier was the holder of the Silver Star, Purple Heart and Presidential Citation.

③ JOE LEE ALLEN, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Sergeant Allen was born Dec. 27, 1920, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Allen and husband of Mrs. Bessie Jones Allen of Denham Springs, La. He was inducted on Sept. 23, 1942, at Denham Springs, La., and assigned to the U. S. Army at Camp Beauregard, La. He trained for more than a year in the States before embarking on Oct. 31, 1943, for overseas. Sergeant Allen saw action in the campaign in Normandy and holds the American Theater of Operations Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Medal and Victory Medal. On Feb. 16, 1946, he received his discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss.

④ JAMES V. CLEMENT, PFC, Air Forces

Son of Mrs. Lela N. Clement of Denham Springs. He was born March 28, 1926, and attended Seventh Ward and Denham Springs High Schools. Entering the Army Air Forces on July 24, 1944, at Camp Beauregard, he went to Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, as a basic trainee and received gunnery training at Kingman Army Air Base, Ariz. On receiving his wings he went to Lincoln Army Air Base, Neb., as a turret gunner in overseas training, then returned to Kingman Army Air Base. He also served at Laredo Army Air Base, Texas. Re-enlisting for one year, he went to the Overseas Replacement Depot at Greensboro, N. C., from which he went to New York for embarkation for the European Theater of Operations. He was continuing to serve with the Army Air Forces in Germany.

⑤ ARCHIE E. TRUAX, U. S. Marine Corps

He was born Feb. 2, 1917, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James F. Truax of Denham Springs, La. He is a graduate of the Denham Springs High School and entered the U. S. Marine Corps in April, 1937. Archie is the husband of Ruby F. Truax.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑥ ROBERT J. TRUAX, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James F. Truax of Denham Springs, La. He was born Oct. 8, 1915, and is a graduate of the Mcquion High School at Jackson, La. Before entering the Armed Forces, he worked at Meeks sawmill. Robert is the husband of Agnes Truax and father of Barbara Truax. He entered the U. S. Marine Corps in March, 1937.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑦ JOSEPH C. GUILLOT, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of John W. Guillot of Simmesport, La., was born Oct. 9, 1925. He attended Simmesport High School before being inducted into the Army on Jan. 10, 1944, at Lafayette, La. He was assigned to the Infantry and after receiving his basic training embarked for England on Oct. 22, 1944. He saw combat duty in Europe, taking part in the Belgium Bulge, Colmar Pocket, Ruhr Pocket and Holland Pocket. Sergeant Guillot is holder of the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star and three Battle Stars.

⑧ PINK E. GUILLOT, T/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. John W. Guillot of Simmesport, La., was born April 1, 1920. After attending Simmesport High School he was employed in the United States Engineering Department before being inducted into the Army on Oct. 1, 1941, at Camp Livingston, La. After receiving his training he embarked on December 5, 1943, for Northern Ireland. T/Sgt. Guillot saw action in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. He holds the Purple Heart which he received in France on Aug. 9, 1944, and also the Combat Badge, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal. He received his discharge Aug. 20, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑨ LOUIS A. IVANYISKY, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ivanyisky of Albany, La. He was born Aug. 26, 1919, and attended the Albany High School. He worked one year in Cleveland, Ohio, before entering the Armed Forces. Louis is the husband of Elizabeth Ivanyisky of Albany. He entered the U. S. Army Dec. 29, 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑩ PAUL L. IVANYISKY

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ivanyisky of Albany, La., was born Jan. 21, 1915. He attended the Albany High School and operated a filling station prior to entering the Armed Forces. Paul entered the U. S. Army Aug. 18, 1941.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑪ ALEXANDRIA M. IVANYISKY, U. S. Army

He was born Sept. 12, 1924, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ivanyisky of Albany, La. He attended the Albany High School and was engaged in farming prior to entering the Armed Forces. Alexandria entered the U. S. Army April 24, 1943.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑫ LUTHER E. PALMER, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Palmer and husband of Alma K. Palmer of Walker, La., he was born Aug. 14, 1911, and attended Walker High School. Prior to his services with the U. S. Army Palmer was employed as a carpenter. Entering the Army April 7, 1941, he was assigned to Fort Bragg, N. C., for training. Later he was sent to Camp Hood, Texas, and Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he did Military Police duty. Palmer is the holder of the Good Conduct Medal and Pre-Pearl Harbor Ribbon.

⑬ WILLIAM HENRY TURNLEY, JR., S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of William H. Turnley, Sr., and husband of Doris B. Turnley of Denham Springs, La., he was born Aug. 20, 1922. Turnley attended Hollywood Junior High and Seventh Ward Schools. Entering the service Nov. 25, 1940, he was assigned to Camp Bowie, Texas, for Infantry training. He attended gunnery school at Tyndall Field, Fla. Sergeant Turnley departed Sept. 6, 1942, for England where he served as a warehouse foreman. He returned to the States in January, 1943, and departed again for England April 30, 1944, as an aerial gunner. Sergeant Turnley flew 33 missions with the Eighth Air Force and is the holder of the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters and a Unit Citation. After more than four years of meritorious service he was discharged July 27, 1945.

⑭ CHARLES R. TURNLEY, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Turnley of Denham Springs, La. He was born July 10, 1925, and attended the Seventh Ward High School. Charles entered the Armed Forces in September, 1943.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑮ LEROY N. ARCENEAUX, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Tothice Arceneaux of Springfield, La., he was born Dec. 13, 1925 and attended Springfield High School. Entering the service Feb. 24, 1944, he was assigned to Camp Fannin, Texas, Camp Van Dorn, Miss., and Camp Swift, Texas. He departed Nov. 26, 1944, for France and as a rifleman participated in the bitter fighting of the Rhineland and Central Germany. Arceneaux is the holder of the Combat Badge, European Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, and the Good Conduct Medal. He is still a member of the U. S. Army.

⑯ CALVIN J. ARCENEAUX, T/5, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Tothice Arceneaux of Springfield, La., and husband of Mrs. Nettie Arceneaux of Baton Rouge, La., he was born March 2, 1924. Arceneaux attended Springfield High School. Entering the service Jan. 21, 1943, he was assigned to Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He departed May 15, 1943, for Australia where he served for 22 months. He participated in the New Guinea Campaign. Arceneaux is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal with one Bronze Star, the American Theater Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. He was discharged Dec. 9, 1945.

⑰ JOSEPH WINIFRED MERCIER, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Mercier of Denham Springs, La. He was born Jan. 4, 1926, and attended the Central High School. Before entering the Armed Forces, he was a truck driver for the Amith Gravel Company. Joseph entered the U. S. Navy Nov. 7, 1943.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑱ GLENN PHILLIP EFFERSON, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Efferson of Frost, La. He was born Jan. 22, 1926, and attended the Frost (La.) School. Glenn entered the Armed Forces Jan. 1, 1944.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑲ ALBERT J. CROWDER, Seaman 1/C, U.S.N.

Husband of Bertha Irene Crowder of Denham Springs and father of Michael, Ellis, and Doyle Denver Crowder. He was born April 27, 1918, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Luther W. Crowder of Denham Springs, and attended Denham Springs School. He was employed by E. I. DuPont de Nemours and Company prior to entering the United States Navy at New Orleans June 26, 1944. He received boot training at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., and Amphibious training at Coronado, Calif. He spent 14 months overseas in foreign service aboard ship at Pearl Harbor, the Marshall Islands, Guam, Saipan, Manus Island, the Philippines, Okinawa, Iwo Jima, Maui and Osaka, Japan. He made a second voyage to Wakayama, Japan. He was in combat in the naval action at Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and was in the first landing on the home islands of Japan. He was granted his discharge Jan. 10, 1946.

⑳ GEORGE RILEY MILLER, SC 3/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Esmer Rae Miller of Denham Springs and father of Kenneth Riley, Velma Lorraine and Cecile Eugene Miller. He was born Oct. 19, 1914, the son of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Miller of Ponchatoula. Enlisting in the Navy on Dec. 22, 1942, at New Orleans, he made two tours of overseas duty, one beginning April 26, 1943, and the other beginning April 5, 1944. He served in the New Hebrides and Japan and was with a transport and rescue ship operating in and around Okinawa and other islands of the Ryukyu Group and the home islands of Japan. He was granted his discharge at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans, on Nov. 21, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



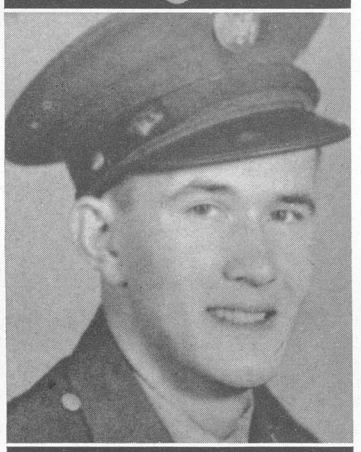
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① Carl Eugene Higginbotham

Captain, Army Air Forces

Husband of Marion Holmes Higginbotham, Holden, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Higginbotham. He attended Holden High School, Southeastern Louisiana College, and Baton Rouge Business College. He was employed by the State Department of Public Welfare at Baton Rouge as tabulating equipment supervisor. Entering the Army Air Forces on June 17, 1942, at Harding Field, he went to San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center to begin pilot training and continued at Stamford Flying School, Texas, Enid Army Flying School, Okla., Frederick Army Air Field, Okla., Liberal Army Air Field, Kansas (B-24 transition), and Biggs Field, El Paso, Texas, for combat training. From May 17, 1944, to April 20, 1945, he served with the 15th Air Force in Italy, assigned to duty as a B-24 pilot with the 455th Bombardment Group (Heavy). He flew 50 combat sorties over enemy territory and has the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat over Moosbierbaum, Austria, June 26, 1944, and the European Theater Ribbon with Campaign Stars for Rome-Arno, the Invasion of Southern France, Germany, and the Balkans.

② Norwood T. C. Carter

Captain, Air Forces

Husband of Carlyn Cox Carter of Holden and father of Norwood William Carter II, Carol Ann Carter, and Thaddeus Cox Carter. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs. N. W. Carter of Holden. He attended Holden High School and Louisiana State University and was with the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare and owned and operated a truck farm prior to entering the Army Air Forces October 1, 1942, at Third Air Force Headquarters, Tampa, Florida. He served at MacDill Field, Tampa, Florida, as assistant provost marshal and provost marshal. On September 7, 1945, Captain Carter embarked for the Pacific Theater where he served at Hickam Field, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Fannin, Texas, on March 28, 1946.

③ John D. Adams

Staff Sergeant, AAF

Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Adams of Holden. He was born August 28, 1916, and attended Holden High School and Southwestern Louisiana Institute at Lafayette. He was with Armour Packing Company prior to entering the armed service on April 13, 1942, in the Army Air Forces. From Camp Livingston he went to Sheppard Field, Texas, for training and served at Lockbourne Air Base, Columbus, Ohio, Selfridge Field, Mich., and Wendover Field, Utah, assigned to duty as an airplane mechanic. On June 13, 1943, he sailed from San Francisco and served in New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and the Philippine Islands as an airplane mechanic. He was in combat in the Consolidation of the Northern Solomons, the Bismarck Archipelago Campaign, and the New Guinea Campaign. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on November 6, 1945.

④ Douglas Charles Minton

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of John Douglas and Eva Gertrude Minton, of Denham Springs, La. He was born Nov. 5, 1924, graduated from Denham Springs High School, and was a timber contractor prior to entering the service. He was inducted into the cavalry on August 3, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, and received his Basic Training at Fort Riley, Kansas. On Jan. 15, 1944, he embarked for New Guinea, and he served on combat missions in New Guinea, Admiralty Islands, Leyte, and Luzon, fighting in the campaigns in these places, and he participated in the occupation of Tokyo. He served with the 1st Cavalry Division, 12th Regiment. Sgt. Minton received the Purple Heart on Feb. 15, 1945, at Manila, Philippine Islands. He was honorably discharged at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on Oct. 19, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Gus Randell Lockhart

② Octavia Page

③ Joseph Ellzey Minton

④ James Wilbur Wasson

⑤ Milton E. McNabb

⑥ Floyd Barnett

⑦ Emmett C. Morgan

⑧ Glen W. Galloway

⑨ Ira A. Hill

⑩ James V. Scivicque

⑪ Curtis D. Blount

⑫ James F. Cotton

⑬ Brant Barnett

⑭ Franklin W. Harrison

⑮ Elbert Everner Facundus

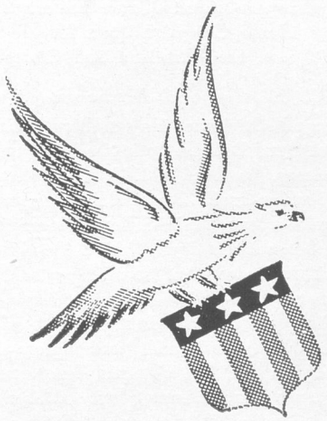
⑯ Carl O. Bridges

⑰ Casey C. McDonald

⑱ Robert O. Watts, Jr.

⑲ Leonard Henderson

⑳ V. J. Hill





① GUS RANDELL LOCKHART, Chief Radioman, U. S. N.

Husband of Winnie Lee Roberts Lockhart and father of Marion and Glenda Lockhart. He was born May 19, 1915, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Dennie Lockhart of Denham Springs, and attended Denham Springs and Walker schools. He was a logging contractor prior to entering the United States Navy Sept. 1, 1942, at Denham Springs. On Oct. 22, 1942, he embarked for the U. S. Naval Operating Base at Casablanca, French Morocco, North Africa. He served at Safi, Casablanca, Algiers and Oran, and fought in the Battles for Safi and Casablanca in the African Campaign. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Battle Stars. Returning to the States, he was stationed at the Naval Air Station (LTA), Brunswick, Ga. He was discharged Sept. 23, 1945.

② OCTAVIA PAGE, Staff Sergeant, Army

He was born Dec. 28, 1918, and is the son of Mrs. Sarah Causey. He attended Port Vincent, Ponchatoula, and Castor schools and entered the Army Oct. 24, 1940. After intensive training at Fort Sam Houston and Camp McCoy, Wis., he went overseas with a fighting division for further training and preparation for invasion in North Ireland and South Wales. Staff Sergeant Page fought through the Invasion of Normandy over the beaches and through the hedgerows until he was wounded in action Aug. 22, 1944. He has the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action against the enemy, the American Defense Service Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Campaign Star for Normandy, the Good Conduct Ribbon and the Victory Ribbon. He was medically discharged June 28, 1945.

③ JOSEPH ELLZEY MINTON, S/Sgt., Air Forces

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Charles Minton and attended Denham Springs High School and Southeastern Louisiana College. He entered the AAF Feb. 12, 1941, and served at Maxwell Field, Ala., Tyndall Field, Fla., Buckley Field, Col., Harlingen Field, Texas, Salt Lake City Army Air Base, Utah, Gowan Field, Idaho, Pocatello AAB, Idaho, Sioux City AAB, Iowa, Lincoln AAB, Neb., and Morrison Field, Fla., serving as clerk, armorer-gunner on a B-24 aircraft, photographer and in public relations. Embarking for England Nov. 23, 1943, he was assigned to a B-24 bomber base and flew 30 combat missions over enemy-held France and Germany, including Brunswick, Hamburg, Berlin and Frankfort. He has the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, three Bronze Stars, and the Presidential Unit Citation Badge for a mission over Gotha, Germany, on Feb. 24, 1944.

④ JAMES WILBUR WASSON, S/Sgt., Air Forces

He was born May 27, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Welly Wasson. He was a student at Louisiana State University prior to entering the AAF Jan. 19, 1941. He studied at Boeing Aeronautic School, Oakland, Calif., and returned to Barksdale Field as propeller specialist, B-24 aircraft. He also served at Kirkland Field, Albuquerque, N. M. From Greensboro, N. C., he was assigned to the China-Burma-India Theater and embarked on October 17, 1944, for India. Shortly afterward he was flown to China for service with General Chennault's Flying Tigers and served in many parts of China, frequently behind enemy lines, moving to Burma prior to V-J Day. He has the Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Campaign Stars, and three Campaign Stars pending at the time of his discharge Oct. 23, 1946.

⑤ MILTON E. McNABB, Corporal, Army

He was born Jan. 21, 1925, and attended French Settlement High School. He was an electrician and was also engaged in farming prior to entering the Army on April 24, 1944. He trained with the Field Artillery and the Infantry at Fort Sill, Okla., and Camp Maxey, Texas. On Dec. 10, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater of Operations and served in Belgium, France, Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia as a driver with the 121st Quartermaster Car Company. He served in the Campaigns of the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the Purple Heart for wounds received on Jan. 8, 1945, during the heavy winter fighting of the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium. He also has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Combat Infantry Badge. He was discharged on April 24, 1946.

⑥ FLOYD BARNETT, Tec/5, Army

Son of Mrs. Alma Barnett of Denham Springs. He was born June 11, 1915, and attended Denham Springs High School. He was in construction work prior to entering the Army Sept. 9, 1942. He received basic training with the Field Artillery at Camp Roberts, Calif., and engineer training at Camp White. Ore. On Jan. 6, 1943, he embarked for England and served in England, France, Belgium and Germany, handling supplies, frequently under enemy fire and operating close to the front lines.

⑦ EMMETT C. MORGAN, PFC, U. S. Army

He attended Denham Springs High School and was with an automobile agency in Beaumont, Texas, prior to entering the Army at Camp Wolters, Texas, on July 26, 1943. He fought at Salerno in the Rome-Arno Campaign until stricken with fever. He was flown from Naples, Italy, on Aug. 3, 1945, to Miami, Fla. After a period of rest and treatment there, he was flown to Jackson, Miss., where he was a patient at Foster General Hospital. He was later sent to Hot Springs, Ark., for treatment and rehabilitation, and received his discharge in October, 1945.

⑧ GLEN W. GALLOWAY, Tec/4, U. S. Army

He was with Mengel Company, Baton Rouge, prior to entering the Army in the Quartermaster Corps on July 22, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He was assigned to Camp Ellis, Ill., for training, then went to Camp Stoneman, Calif., port of embarkation. Sergeant Galloway served overseas for two years, embarking Jan. 8, 1944, for the Pacific area, where he served in the Hawaiian Islands and on Saipan in the Marianas Group, where he was in combat with the enemy. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and a Presidential Unit Citation for outstanding performance of duty in action. He was discharged on Jan. 14, 1946.

⑨ IRA A. HILL, Paratroopers

He was born Dec. 8, 1925, and attended Walker, Port Vincent and Denham Springs schools. He was a route salesman prior to entering the Army (Parachute Infantry) on Feb. 24, 1944. From Camp Fannin, Texas, where he received 17 weeks of basic training, he went to Fort Benning, Ga., for Paratroop training, and served unassigned at Fort Meade, Md., Camp Kilmer, N. J., and Camp Shelby. On Oct. 15, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater of Operations and received special combat training. In France he guarded bridges under enemy fire from planes, and fought on the front in Belgium and Luxembourg. He jumped with the Seventh Airborne Infantry in their famed landing operation across the Rhine River in Germany. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with Bronze Campaign Stars for the Ardennes where he fought in Belgium, the Rhineland and Central Europe.

⑩ JAMES V. SCIVICQUE, Corporal, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy D. Scivicque. He was born Nov. 29, 1921, and attended Port Vincent and Denham Springs schools and General Motors School, New Orleans. On Sept. 9, 1942, he entered the AAF and was assigned to Keesler Field, Biloxi, Miss., as an airplane mechanic and instructor. On Aug. 25, 1945, he embarked for Tinian in the Marianas where he spent 40 days at the 219th General Hospital. He went to the 13th Replacement Depot, then to Mid-Pacific Headquarters, AAF, as airplane engine mechanic, serving in this capacity in the Hawaiian Islands throughout his term of overseas duty, last serving with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Seventh Air Force. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and the American Defense Service Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal, and was discharged Feb. 2, 1946.

⑪ CURTIS D. BLOUNT, Mo MM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Florence Blount of Walker. He attended Live Oak High School and was engaged in farming prior to entering the Navy. He was assigned to the Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., and was assigned to duty on USS LST 0 24, embarking June 24, 1945, for the South Pacific, where he served in the Solomon Islands, the Philippines and China. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and the American Defense Service Ribbon, and has four Bronze Campaign Stars for combat in the Southwest Pacific and the Philippines. He was discharged May 4, 1946, at New Orleans.

⑫ JAMES F. COTTON, Corporal, AAF

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Cotton. He attended Denham Springs High prior to entering the AAF Oct. 4, 1941. He served at Camp Wheeler with the Signal Corps, then went to Drew Field, Fla., where he studied radar, and Charleston, S. C., on coastal defense duty, as a radar operator. He went to Fort Monmouth, N. J., Signal Corps School in general training and radio, then to Camp Murphy, Fla., for advanced radar repair study. He was assigned to duty at Fort Dix, N. J., then took a special course in radar, in the operation of beacons, and in navigation at Boca Raton, Fla. Corporal Cotton served at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Mass., as a modification specialist in television, and at Columbia Army Air Base, S. C. He was discharged on Nov. 29, 1945.

⑬ BRANT BARNETT, PFC, USMCR

He was born Jan. 9, 1927, and attended Denham Springs High School. He was a farmer and construction worker and was employed at Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Wash., prior to his induction Jan. 31, 1944, into the Marine Corps Reserve at New Orleans. From the Recruit Depot, Marine Corps Base, San Diego, he went to Camp C. B. Matthews, LaJolla, Calif., Camp Elliott, San Diego, and Camp Linda Vista, San Diego. On June 24, 1944, he embarked for Pearl Harbor and served on Tinian and Saipan in the Mariana Islands and Nagasaki in Kyushu, Japan. He was in combat with a weapons company in the battle for Tinian and in the floating reserve at Okinawa, and has the Presidential Unit Citation Badge for the Sixth Marine Regiment, Second Marine Division, in its outstanding performance of duty in action on Tarawa. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Campaign Stars.

⑭ FRANKLIN W. HARRISON, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Harrison of Weise. He attended Live Oak High School prior to entering the Navy July 15, 1945. He went to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., and served as rifle range instructor at Camp Parks, Calif. From Treasure Island he embarked Oct. 17, 1945, for the Pacific area and was stationed on Guam as a truck operator. He also served in the occupation of Japan, and was still stationed in the Pacific following the cessation of hostilities.

⑮ ELBERT EVERNER FACUNDUS, Private, Signal Corps, AUS

Husband of Meriam Virginia Curtis of Watson and son of Mr. and Mrs. Wyeth T. Facundus. He was born March 6, 1917, and attended Denham Springs High School. He was a carpenter prior to entering the Army on Dec. 22, 1942. He was assigned to Camp Kohler, Calif., Signal Corps, Replacement Training Center, and embarked May 27, 1943, for England. He served in England and France as linesman for a Signal Corps Battalion. He made the Invasion of Normandy and fought on Normandy Beachhead and was in the bitter fighting at St. Lo. Private Facundus came off the front battle lines at St. Lo with a severe case of concussion and combat exhaustion. He was granted a CDD discharge on Dec. 9, 1944, at Kennedy General Hospital. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with a Campaign Star for Normandy.

⑯ CARL O. BRIDGES, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Husband of Mrs. Elma Bridges of Watson and son of Mr. and Mrs. William L. Bridges. He was born Nov. 17, 1922, and attended Carlinville High School. He was cashier and clerk in a grocery concern prior to entering the Army on Nov. 13, 1942. He served at Camp Grant, Ill., and at Camp Beale, Camp Young and San Bernardino, Calif., serving as a surgical technician and instrument nurse in the operating room. On Aug. 27, 1944, he embarked for Guam and Saipan, serving as surgical technician at the 373rd Station Hospital and with a Medical Detachment with the 501st AAA Gun Battalion. He has the Bronze Star for meritorious achievement in action, and was continuing to serve in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater following the cessation of hostilities.

⑰ CASEY C. McDONALD, Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. McDonald of Doyle and father of Kay Caroline McDonald. He attended Doyle High School and was a cook by vocation prior to entering the Army Dec. 22, 1942. He attended school for cooks and bakers at Fort Bragg, N. C., and bakers' training camp at Fort Fisher, N. C. He served as cook at Camp Breckinridge, Ky., and embarked from Camp Shanks, N. J., for England. Corporal McDonald served on guard duty in Scotland and Wales and landed in Normandy on D-Day plus 6. He was a truck driver over the famed Red Ball Route hauling supplies to the fast-moving Third Army. After the cessation of hostilities he hauled supplies to Poland. He fought in Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Oct. 16, 1945.

⑱ ROBERT O. WATTS, JR., SM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Elgin L. Willie Watts and son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Obie Watts. He was born March 23, 1926, and attended Killian School and Springfield High School. He entered the Navy June 28, 1944. From the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., he was assigned to the Amphibious Training Base at San Diego. He embarked from Camp Shoemaker, Calif., on Dec. 19, 1944, for Pearl Harbor, T. H., aboard LST 802, Staff LST Group 67, Staff LST Flotilla 23. He also served on duty aboard the USS Garfield Thomas. He fought in the Campaign of Okinawa. Returning from the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations, he was discharged at New Orleans on March 12, 1946.

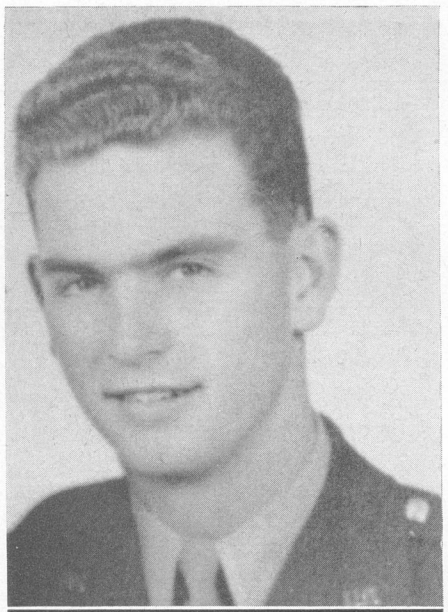
⑲ LEONARD HENDERSON, Tec/5, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Mattie Burns of Frost and Clyde Henderson. He was born July 6, 1925, and attended French Settlement High School. He was engaged in farming prior to entering the Army Nov. 11, 1943. He went to Camp Barkeley, Texas, for basic instruction as a medical technician. On June 5, 1945, he embarked for Oahu in the Territory of Hawaii, where he was stationed in the dispensary. He served in Osaka and Yokohama, Japan, with the 656th Medical Clearing Hospital. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was discharged on April 24, 1946, at Fort Bliss, Texas.

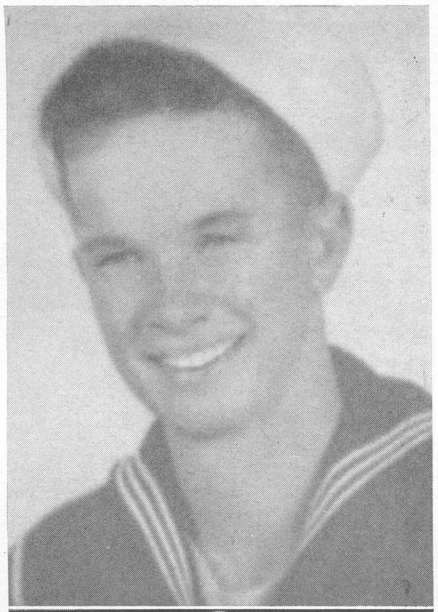
⑳ V. J. HILL, S 1/C, USN

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse F. Hill. He was born May 16, 1926, and attended French Settlement, Springfield and Ponchatoula schools. He was with Todd Johnson Dry Docks prior to entering the Naval Reserve May 9, 1944. From the U. S. Naval Training and Distribution Center, Camp Wallace, Texas, he served at San Diego, Pearl Harbor, Eniwetok, Ulithi, Mog Mog, the Philippines, the Marianas, Los Angeles and New Orleans. With the USS Hector AR 7 he served for 20 months in the Marshalls, the Carolines, the Hawaiian Islands, the Philippines and the Marianas. He has the Asiatic-Pacific and American Theater, Philippine Liberation and Victory Ribbons and was discharged May 21, 1946, at New Orleans.

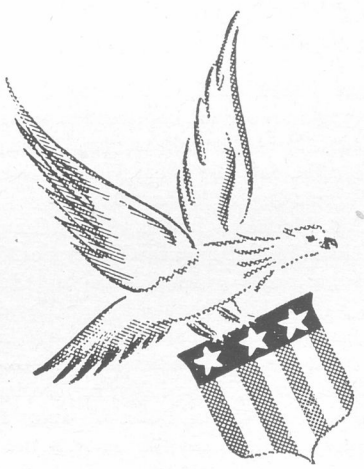
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



1



2



① Julius Douglas Nesom

Major, Army Air Corps

Husband of Elaine Kinchen Nesom, Watson, and son of Mrs. J. G. Roos, 433 Lisbon Street, San Francisco. He was born Aug. 3, 1922, and was educated in Louisiana and Texas schools and at LSU prior to induction Oct. 7, 1939. From Barksdale Field he went to Lawson Field, Ga., as a bombardier, then to Fort Dix, N. J., Savannah Air Base, Ga., MacDill Field, Fla., where he was a bombardier instructor, and Gowan Field, Boise, Idaho. After a period at Miami Beach OCS he returned to MacDill as adjutant and was at Myrtle Beach, S. C., and Godman Field, Ky., as executive officer until he sailed for England Jan. 17, 1944, serving as executive officer in England, France and Belgium. Major Nesom's campaigns include the Air Offensive over Europe (Ltr. ETOUSA 44), the Normandy Invasion (Ltr. Hq. ETOUSA 45), Northern France (Ltr. Hq. ETOUSA 45), Rhineland (Ltr. Hq. ETOUSA 45), Ardennes (Ltr. Hq. ETOUSA 45), and Central Europe (Ltr. Hq. ETOUSA 45). He has three overseas service bars, the American Defense Service Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Service Medal and the Distinguished Unit Badge (9th Air Force Headquarters). He was honorably discharged Jan. 11, 1946, at Seymour Johnson Field, Goldsboro, N. C.

② Bolder Leon Kinchen, Jr.

Rd M 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Bolder Leon Kinchen, Watson. He was born Jan. 4, 1926, and was educated at Live Oak High School and LSU. Entering the U. S. Navy Dec. 31, 1943, at Baton Rouge, he was sent to San Diego Naval Training Station, Balboa Park, San Diego Repair Base, Treasure Island. He attended Point Loma Radar School, Mare Island Radar School, San Clemente Island, and was stationed at Todd Pacific Shipyards, Seattle, and Shoemaker, Calif., on naval assignments. He left for sea duty in September, 1944. Convoy assignments took him to the battlefronts of the Central Pacific, the South Pacific, and the Far East. He saw anti-submarine duty and fought with the Fifth Fleet, Task Force 58. He engaged in radar picket duty off Okinawa and Japan. He fought in the great Pacific campaigns of Iwo Jima, the Bonin Islands, Okinawa, and Ie Shima. He has a Navy Unit Citation, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three battle stars, and the American Theater Ribbon.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Elizabeth L. Jones

② Lloyd George Jones

③ Collins August Jones

④ Murray Ivy Jones

⑤ William L. Jones

⑥ Carey Cockerham Jones

⑦ Amos Ponder Jones

⑧ Joseph I. Stafford

⑨ George B. Fletcher

⑩ Tynes Day Fletcher

⑪ Newman Ray Fletcher

⑫ Walter Vaughn Ford

⑬ Sidney Lee Montgomery

⑭ Stanley Aubrey Watson

⑮ Sidney Elgean Facundus

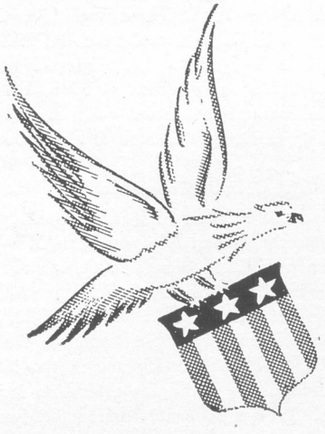
⑯ Julius F. Webb

⑰ Milbourne Willie Salassi

⑱ Elliott Reed Salassi

⑲ Jake Alton Martin

⑳ Tom Ed Webb





① ELIZABETH L. JONES, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Daughter of Mrs. Carrie Jones of Watson, La. She was born Oct. 2, 1924, and is a graduate of the Live Oak High School and the Baton Rouge Business College. She entered the Waves Nov. 28, 1944.

(N. M. I. A.)

② LLOYD GEORGE JONES, ARM 2/C, U. S. Navy (R)

Son of Dr. Henry Clinton and Carrie Underwood Jones of Watson. He was born Aug. 6, 1919, and attended Southeastern Louisiana College, Hammond. He entered the United States Naval Reserve on Jan. 27, 1942, at New Orleans, and attended boot camp at the U. S. Naval Training Station in San Diego, going also to Aviation Radio School, Aviation Radar School, and Aerial Gunnery School, San Diego. He was attached to the patrol squadron, U. S. Naval Air Station, San Diego. On May 6, 1942, he embarked for Newfoundland as aviation radioman, serving in the same capacity in the British Isles. He was in combat in the Anti-Submarine Patrol Warfare in the North Atlantic and the Bismarck Sea, and has the American Theater Medal with Star and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with Star. He was discharged (medical) at the NAS in Boca Ciega, Fla., Feb. 7, 1945.

③ COLLINS AUGUST JONES, Sergeant, Air Forces

Son of the late Dr. Henry Clinton Jones and Carrie Underwood Jones of Watson. He was born Jan. 23, 1917, and attended Pride High School. He was inducted at Camp Shelby Nov. 5, 1941, into the AAF, and served at Keesler Field, Miss., and Sheppard Field, Texas, as drill instructor. He attended radio maintenance and operations school, Sioux Falls Army Air Base, S. D., Harlingen Gunnery School, Texas, Salt Lake City AAB, Utah, Salinas Army Air Base, Kansas (Radio Operator), and Camp Stoneman, Calif. On June 2, 1943, he embarked for the New Hebrides as radio operator, 15th Airdrome Squadron, 13th Air Force. He served at Guadalcanal, the Russell Islands, New Guinea, the Admiralties, Biak, Morotai and the Philippines, and was in combat in Bismarck Archipelago, the Philippines, and Borneo, and has the American Defense Service Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Good Conduct and Sharpshooter Medals.

④ MURRAY IVY JONES, Ensign, U. S. Navy

Husband of Betty Reuther Jones of Watson and son of Mrs. Carrie Underwood Jones. He was born March 27, 1913, and attended Louisiana State University. He served as teacher and coach in the public schools prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on Aug. 2, 1942, at New Orleans. He served as pharmacist's mate at Pensacola, Fla., and Mobile, Ala. He served as chief specialist (athletics) at Norfolk, Va., and Bethany, W. Va., and attended Hollywood and Miami, Fla., training schools. On Feb. 22, 1944, he embarked for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations where he served aboard ship in the Pacific. He was in combat in the Philippine Liberation. He was released to inactive duty at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans.

⑤ WILLIAM L. JONES, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Carrie Jones of Watson, La. He was born Feb. 26, 1904, and is a graduate of the Live Oak High School.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑥ CAREY COCKERHAM JONES, ARM 1/C, U. S. N. (R)

Son of Dr. Henry Clinton and Carrie Underwood Jones of Watson. He was born Sept. 30, 1921, and entered the United States Naval Reserve Aug. 26, 1941. He went from the U. S. Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Va., to the U. S. Naval Air Station, Norfolk, and was in action with Bombing Squadron Nine on Anti-Submarine Patrol awaiting USS Essex CV 9. He served at the U. S. NAS, Quonset Point, R. I., at U. S. Naval Aviation Radio and Gunnery Schools at Alameda, Calif., Norfolk, Va., and Dam Neck, Va., and received instruction in radio aviation transmitters at Collins Radio Factory, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He served at Norfolk NRS and NRL, Washington, D. C., as instructor and in maintenance, with CASU 21 and CASU 26, at Falmouth, Mass. Embarking for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater aboard USS Randolph CV 15, he fought in the Philippine Liberation, the Invasion of Iwo Jima, the Invasion of Okinawa, and all carrier strikes on the mainland of Japan. He was honorably discharged Dec. 20, 1945, at New Orleans.

⑦ AMOS PONDER JONES, AMM 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of the late Dr. Henry Clinton Jones and Carrie Underwood Jones of Watson. Born April 15, 1915, he attended Pride High School, Louisiana State University, and Baton Rouge Business College. Entering the United States Navy August 8, 1941, at New Orleans, he went to the Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va., awaiting assignment. He served at the Naval Air Station, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., as aviation machinist mate and with the ground crew. Going to the Canal Zone Sept. 26, 1941, he served at Balboa and Upham, C. Z., at Barranquilla, Colombia, and at Salinas, Ecuador, with scout and patrol squadrons, flight and ground crews. He was granted his honorable discharge at the NAS, New Orleans, on October 16, 1945.

⑧ JOSEPH I. STAFFORD, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. N. I. Stafford of Denham Springs, La., he was born Feb. 13, 1923, and attended Denham Springs High School. He entered the service March 25, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, La. Later he was transferred to the Army Air Force and received training at Chanute Field, Ill., and Detroit, Mich. Departing Jan. 13, 1944, for Italy Sgt. Stafford participated in the Rome-Arno, North Apennines, Po Valley, Southern and Northern France, Normandy, the Balkans and the Rhineland Campaigns. He was awarded two presidential citations and is also the holder of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon. After 2 years of meritorious service, Sgt. Stafford was discharged Oct. 14, 1945.

⑨ GEORGE B. FLETCHER, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Fletcher of Denham Springs, La., he was born Jan. 21, 1917, and attended school at Nickelson in Baton Rouge, La., and Pine Grove and Live Oak High Schools in Watson, La. Fletcher entered the Army May 28, 1941, and received training at Camp Wolters, Texas, and Camp Patrick Henry, Va. Fletcher participated in the fighting at Sicily, Naples, Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. For his gallantry he was awarded the Silver Star, Purple Heart, American Defense Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, Bronze Arrowhead, American Theater Medal and Victory Medal. Fletcher was discharged Nov. 10, 1945.

⑩ TYNES DAY FLETCHER,
Boatswain's Mate 1/C, U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Fletcher of Denham Springs, La., and husband of Helen Agnes Fletcher, he was born May 23, 1920. Fletcher attended Pine Grove High School and Live Oak High School. He entered the U. S. Coast Guard Sept. 17, 1941, at New Orleans, La., and was later assigned to the Algiers Naval Station and Algiers Coast Guard Station. On Jan. 6, 1945, Fletcher was sent to the South Pacific where he served with the U. S. Coast Guard. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans, Oct. 6, 1945.

⑪ NEWMAN RAY FLETCHER, Coxswain 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Tommie Fletcher of Denham Springs, La., and husband of Marie Clement Fletcher. He was born May 23, 1920, and attended Pine Grove and Like Oaks High Schools. Prior to his services with the Navy Fletcher was employed with the Standard Oil Company of La. He entered the U. S. Navy May 20, 1944, and was assigned to Camp Wallace, Tex., for training. He departed for the Pacific Aug. 25, 1944, and participated in the bitter fighting in the Asiatic Pacific and the Philippine Liberation for which he was awarded five stars. He was honorably discharged Jan. 8, 1946, at New Orleans, La.

⑫ WALTER VAUGHN FORD, Captain, Air Forces

Husband of Wilba Montgomery Ford of Denham Springs and father of Sidney Vaughn Ford. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ford of Bozeman, Mont., he was born Dec. 29, 1919, and attended Bozeman High School, having been an automotive mechanic with Krause Motor Co., Bremerton, Wash., prior to entering the Army Air Forces Oct. 15, 1940. He served at Harding Field, La., Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas; Goodfellow Field, San Angelo, Texas; Long Beach Army Air Base, Cal.; Baer Field, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Miami Army Air Field, Fla.; Atlanta Municipal Airport, Ga.; Chanute Field, Ill., Eglin Field, Fla.; and Eagle Pass AAB, Texas. He embarked for the China-Burma-India Theater in May, 1944, going to Maran, Bombay, and New Delhi, India, as pilot of a C-47 aircraft and was assigned to duty as squadron commander in the 12th Combat Cargo Squadron, 3rd Combat Cargo Group. He has the Distinguished Flying Cross with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, with a record of 925 hours of operational flying.

⑬ SIDNEY LEE MONTGOMERY, Sergeant, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Montgomery of Denham Springs. He was born Feb. 9, 1921, and attended Denham Springs High School. Entering the Army Air Forces on Sept. 9, 1942, at New Orleans, he served at Keesler Field, Miss., at Lake Charles Army Air Field, assigned to duty as weather observer, and at Seymour Johnson Field, Goldsboro, N. C., Overseas Replacement Training Center. On Sept. 6, 1943, he embarked for the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations where he served at Bombay, Karachi, New Delhi, Calcutta, and Barrackpore, India, assigned to duty as a clerk. He has the Good Conduct Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, American Defense Service Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon, and was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on Dec. 12, 1945.

⑭ STANLEY AUBREY WATSON, United States Navy

Husband of June Alice Watson of Fortuna, Calif., and son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Torrence Watson of Walker. He was born Dec. 15, 1914, and attended Walker High School. He was engaged in farming and was also a carpenter prior to entering the United States Navy Sept. 30, 1940, at New Orleans. From the United States Naval Training Center at San Diego, Calif., he went aboard the battleship USS Idaho for sea duty from Nov. 24, 1940, to July 30, 1944. He next served at the Amphibious Training Base, Coronado, Calif., to which he was assigned from the Naval Receiving Station at San Francisco. With the USS Idaho from Nov. 24, 1940, to July 20, 1944, he was engaged in sea duty in both theaters of the world battlefronts. He fought in the bombardment and capture of Attu (Aleutians) and of Kiska, the capture of Makin Island (Gilberts) and Kwajalein (Marshalls), and the bombardment of Maleolap and Wotje (Marshalls), Kavieng (New Ireland), and Saipan and Guam in the Marianas (June, 1944). He has the Defense Medal Service Ribbon, a bronze "A" in lieu of the Bronze Star, five campaign stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal.

⑮ SIDNEY ELGEAN FACUNDUS, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Mildred Lea Facundus of Walker and son of Mr. and Mrs. Wyeth T. Facundus of Denham Springs. He was born Dec. 8, 1919, and attended Denham Springs High School. He was a carpenter prior to entering the Army of the United States on Dec. 22, 1942, at New Orleans. Sergeant Facundus served at Camp Bowie, Texas, Camp Hood, Texas, Camp Breckinridge, Ky., Fort Jackson, S. C.; Camp Atterbury, Ind., and Camp Grant, Ill. He embarked for the European Theater Nov. 22, 1944, and served in England, France, and Germany, fighting in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Germany. Sergeant Facundus was attached to the 63rd Infantry Division of the Seventh Army with the 822nd Tank Destroyer Battalion, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with bronze Campaign Stars for the Rhineland and Central Europe and the Good Conduct Medal. He continued to serve in Europe with the Army of Occupation.

⑯ JULIUS F. WEBB, S/Sgt., Air Forces

Husband of Velma Street Webb, 1606 West Howard Ave., Biloxi, Miss., and son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Webb, Denham Springs. Born Jan. 31, 1918, he attended Denham Springs High School, entering the Army Jan. 8, 1937. He served at Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Slocum, N. Y., and Fort McDowell, Calif., going to Manila June 23, 1938, for a tour of duty in the Philippines with the Infantry. Transferred to the Air Corps, he served at Fort Douglas, Wash., in the Philippines, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and Keesler Field, Miss. In the Philippines he was in combat Dec. 8, 1941, to May 10, 1942, when he was captured, remaining a prisoner of war to Sept. 6, 1945. He has the Presidential Citation, two Oak Leaf Clusters, Asiatic-Pacific Theater, American Defense Service, and Philippine Defense Ribbons and was honorably discharged March 23, 1946, at Fort Sam Houston.

⑰ MILBOURNE WILLIE SALASSI, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Salassi of Frost, La. He attended the French Settlement School and entered the armed forces in March, 1942. (N.M.I.A.)

⑱ ELLIOTT REED SALASSI, PFC, Signal Corps, AUS

Husband of Odelia Martin Salassi of Frost and father of Betty Louise and Elliott Reed Salassi, Jr. Born Feb. 10, 1918, the son of Jacob David and Lela Wells Salassi of Frost, he attended French Settlement High School and entered the Army Sept. 9, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Camp Kohler, Cal., Camp Crowder, Mo., Camp Blanding, Fla., and Camp Forrest, Tenn., operating Signal Corps trucks. Embarking for the Pacific in April, 1944, he served in New Guinea, the Philippines, and Japan in the same capacity. He was in combat in New Guinea, Leyte, Mindoro, Mindanao, and Luzon, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with Stars for the New Guinea, the Southern Philippines, and Luzon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with star, the Meritorious Service Unit Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, and Bronze Arrowhead for Mindanao.

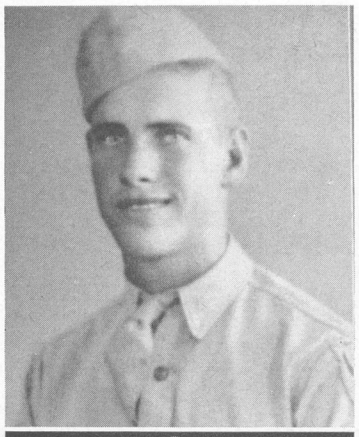
⑲ JAKE ALTON MARTIN, Gunner's Mate 2/C, U. S. N.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis H. Martin of Frost. He was born March 14, 1920, and attended French Settlement High School. Entering the U. S. Naval Reserve Sept. 7, 1942, at New Orleans, he went to the U. S. Naval Training Stations at San Diego, Calif., and Norfolk, Va., embarking in March, 1943, for the European Theater. He served with the heavy cruiser, USS Tuscaloosa, in Newfoundland, Scapa Flow, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Norway, Scotland, Ireland, France, Hawaii, Ulithi Lagoon, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and the Yellow Sea. He was in combat in the landings at Cherbourg, Normandy, and Southern France, Iwo Jima, the Philippines and Okinawa. He has the American Theater Ribbon, EAMETO Ribbon with three campaign stars, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three stars, and Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He was discharged Dec. 7, 1945.

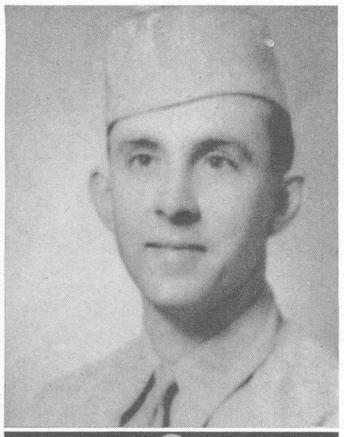
⑳ TOM ED WEBB, Corporal, AAA, AUS

Son of Julius Lathrop Webb and Ruth Ella Perkins Webb of Denham Springs. Born July 2, 1920, he attended Denham Springs High School and entered the Army of the United States Sept. 9, 1942, serving with the Coast Artillery Corps and Anti-Aircraft Artillery at Camp Hulen, Texas, Camp Atterbury, Ind., Camp Davis, N. C., throughout the Tennessee Maneuvers, at Fort Jackson, S. C., Camp Pickett, Va., Camp Bradford, Va., and Fort Dix, N. J. Embarking March 1, 1944, for Scotland, he served as range setter with AAA batteries in England, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Czechoslovakia in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the European Theater Ribbon with five bronze stars, the Good Conduct and World War II Victory Medals, and was discharged at Camp Shelby Dec. 11, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



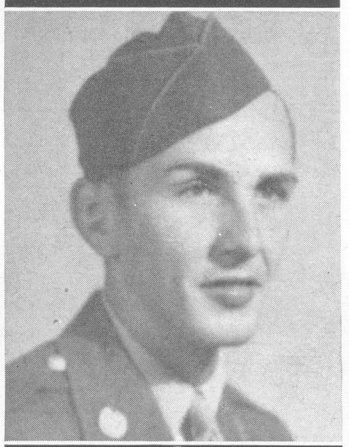
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① Celestian V. Aydell

QMC, Army of the U. S.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Aydell of Port Vincent. He was born May 19, 1921, and attended French Settlement High School. Entering the U. S. Army on Sept. 9, 1942, he served at Camp Van Dorn, Miss., where Company E of the 516th Quartermaster Truck Battalion was formed. He served with the same unit at Camp Patrick Henry, Va., and at Camp Anza, Cal. Embarking March 30, 1943, for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations aboard the USS Hermitage, he went to Wellington, New Zealand, and Melbourne, Australia. He served in the China-Burma-India Theater and the Persian Gulf Command, stationed at Bombay, India, and at Kharramskahr in Iran. Supervising five truck drivers and directing their activities in convoy and the maintenance of the vehicles, he made periodic inspections of trucks hauling equipment and supplies over the most difficult terrain and under severe conditions. On Dec. 15, 1943, his company was redesignated the 3925th Quartermaster Truck Co., and had operated 1,646,531 miles with one of the best records in the CBI and Persian Gulf Command. He was granted his honorable discharge on Nov. 11, 1945.

② Henry Watkins

Staff Sergeant, MC, AUS

Husband of Hazel Stewart Watkins. He was born Sept. 22, 1914, and is the son of the late Thomas Gordon Watkins and Mrs. Linnie Watkins of Kenner. A graduate of Albany High School, he was with E. I. Dupont de Nemours Company prior to entering the Army in the Medical Corps on March 2, 1942. From Camp Beauregard he went to Camp Grant, Ill., for Basic Infantry. Joining the Seventh Division Medical Battalion at San Luis Obispo, Calif., on June 7, 1942, he took part in extensive maneuvers, including those in the Mojave Desert. From Fort Ord he embarked April 23, 1943, for the Aleutian Islands where he evacuated wounded and served as cook. From Attu Island he went to Kiska, then to the South Pacific where he served in the Marshalls, the Philippines, and the Ryukyu Group. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Attu, Kiska, Carlos and Burton in the Marshalls, Leyte in the Philippines, and Okinawa. He has the A. T. O. Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with four bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the Victory Ribbon, and the Distinguished Unit Citation Badge (Headquarters 17th Infantry Regiment, Oct. 5, 1945).

③ Eddie J. Harrell

PFC, U. S. Army

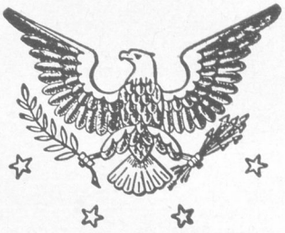
Husband of Naomi Welch Harrell of Livingston and father of Rose Marie Harrell. He was born Aug. 14, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Mack Harrell of Livingston, and attended Doyle High School and Southeastern La. College, Hammond. He was an employee of Standard Oil Company of La. prior to entering the U. S. Army on July 24, 1944, at New Orleans. From the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Hood, Texas, he embarked Jan. 3, 1945, for Lehavre and went into combat in France and Germany. In 90 days on the front line with the 63rd Infantry Division, he earned two Campaign Stars and the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in the performance of duty in action against the enemy, the Presidential Unit Citation Badge and Oak Leaf Cluster. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on April 4, 1946.

④ William Cyrus Brown

Corporal, Air Forces

Husband of Mary Gordon Brown and father of William Cyrus Brown, Jr., of Denham Springs. He was born Nov. 17, 1920, and is the son of Mrs. James F. Brown of Denham Springs. He attended Denham Springs High School and L. S. U. and is a graduate of Soule Business College. He was with the Standard Oil Company, La. Division, prior to entering the A. A. F. Sept. 25, 1943, at New Orleans. From Camp Beauregard he went to Amarillo Army Air Base, Texas, as a flying cadet. He served at Oklahoma City, Okla., Air Depot in Base Operations and went to Warner-Robbins Air Depot for Parachute School, then went overseas in technical supply. On Dec. 19, 1944, Corporal Brown embarked for the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations. He served at Karachi Army Air Base, Karachi, India, in technical supply and as a parachute rigger. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge on April 25, 1946, at Fort Bliss.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Warren J. Brignac

② John Edmond Solassi

③ Paul Omer Solassi, Jr.

④ Edmond P. Brignac

⑤ Chester Paul Brignac

⑥ William E. Crotwell, Jr.

⑦ Doris C. Crotwell

⑧ Kaley C. Crotwell

⑨ Edward Leslie Carpenter

⑩ Fredrick Ferdinand Carpenter

⑪ Johnnie Wilson Watts

⑫ Theodore R. Wascom

⑬ Ernest Oneal Cook

⑭ James P. Cook

⑮ William Melvin Ott

⑯ Ernest Dewey Ott

⑰ Joseph P. Lambert

⑱ Claude F. Lambert

⑲ Simon Guitreau

⑳ Clarence Edward Everett





① WARREN J. BRIGNAC, Captain, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Brignac of French Settlement. He was born March 29, 1923, and attended French Settlement High School and Louisiana State University, entering military service immediately upon completion of his university course. He went into active service Feb. 6, 1943, at Camp Beauregard in the Infantry and went to Fort Benning, Ga., for Officer Candidate School. He served as a platoon leader, Infantry Replacement Training Center, at Camp McClellan, Ala., and from Fort Meade, Md., embarked Dec. 29, 1943, for the European Theater of Operations. He served in England, France, Luxembourg, and Germany as platoon leader and company commander, and fought in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, and Western Europe. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, the American Theater and Victory Ribbons, and the Army of Occupation Ribbon (Germany). He was relieved from active duty Aug. 24, 1946, and is at present a member of the Officer Reserve Corps.

② JOHN EDMOND SOLASSI, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. Paul O. Solassi, Sr., of French Settlement, La. He attended Southeastern College and in January, 1944, entered the Marine Corps. He received his first training at San Francisco, Calif., and later was sent to the Pacific Theater of War. This gallant Marine lost his life at Peleliu Island Battle Oct. 14, 1944.

(N. M. I. A.)

③ PAUL OMER SOLASSI, JR., U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. Paul O. Solassi, Sr., of French Settlement, La. He attended Louisiana State University and entered the armed forces Dec. 12, 1941. He served in the Pacific Theater of War on Guadalcanal, where he was injured in battle. He was then returned to the States and assigned to a hospital.

(N. M. I. A.)

④ EDMOND P. BRIGNAC, Sergeant, Air Forces

He was born April 11, 1926, and attended French Settlement High School and Louisiana State University. He was a student at LSU when he entered service May 8, 1944, at Harding Field. He went to Lowry Field, Denver, Col., for Aircraft Armament School and to Tyndall Field, Fla., for Army Air Forces Flexible Gunnery School. He was assigned to Mount Home Army Air Base, Idaho, for advanced training. He embarked June 21, 1946, for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations and served in Biak, the Philippines, Okinawa and Japan, on duty as an aerial gunner on a B-24 aircraft. He was in combat in the China Offensive, the Ryukyus Campaign, the Air Combat over Borneo, and the China Defensive, and has the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and Victory Ribbon, and the Army of Occupation Ribbon (Japan).

⑤ CHESTER PAUL BRIGNAC, U. S. Army

He was born June 30, 1920, the son of Mrs. Ozelie Brignac Solassi of French Settlement, La. He is a graduate of the French Settlement High School and entered the armed forces Jan. 16, 1940. Chester is the husband of Anne Marie Brignac.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑥ WILLIAM E. CROTWELL, JR., Cpl., FA, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Crotwell of Port Vincent. He was born Aug. 28, 1925, and entered the Army Sept. 23, 1943. Assigned to duty with the Field Artillery, he operated a truck throughout his basic training at Camp Roberts, Calif., and went to Fort George G. Meade, Md., Overseas Replacement Center, embarking from Camp Myles Standish, Mass., on March 23, 1944, for the European Theater of Operations. Corporal Crotwell served in England, Wales, France, Belgium and Germany. He operated a truck with the Field Artillery and fought as a cannoneer and gunner corporal. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with five Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He received a shell fragment wound. He was honorably discharged on Jan. 6, 1946.

⑦ DORIS C. CROTWELL, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Crotwell of Port Vincent, Livingston Parish. He was born July 17, 1920, and entered the Army of the United States Aug. 18, 1941, going to Camp Croft, S. C., for his basic and technical training. On Dec. 5, 1941, he embarked for the Canal Zone. He was assigned to duty with the Corps of Military Police on guard and security duty in the Canal Zone for 30 months. Sergeant Crotwell was granted his discharge at Camp Polk, La., on Oct. 21, 1945, after more than four years of faithful and unselfish service.

⑧ KALEY C. CROTWELL, Petty Officer 2/C, USNR

He was born Feb. 28, 1923, and entered the Naval Reserve Nov. 23, 1942. From the Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., he was asigned to duty in Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego, studying electrical work and the operation of the gyro compass (Treasure Island). On Oct. 6, 1944, Petty Officer Crotwell embarked on a mission of war which took him over all the South Pacific with Minesweeper USS Salute. He was in combat in the Naval fighting of the Invasion of Leyte at Ormoc Bay, the Invasion of Mindoro and the Invasion of Lingayen Gulf on Luzon. This gallant petty officer was killed in the performance of duty when his ship struck a mine while sweeping the shores of North Borneo in Brunei Bay. He had the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Stars for Leyte, Mindoro and Luzon. He was also waarded the Purple Heart posthumously for the wounds which cost his life June 8, 1945, at Brunei Bay, presented at Port Vincent Oct. 12, 1945.

⑨ EDWARD LESLIE CARPENTER, Private, Signal Corps, AUS

Husband of Annie Kinchen Carpenter of Baton Rouge and son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe F. Carpenter of Doyle. He was born July 7, 1921. A graduate of Doyle School, he was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to entering the Army of the United States in the Signal Corps on Sept. 23, 1942. He served with the Signal Corps at Camp Kohler, Calif., at Tyler Texas, at Camp Crowder, Mo., and at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, completing his military service within the continental United States. He was granted his discharge at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on Aug. 1, 1943.

⑩ FREDERICK FERDINAND CARPENTER, Private, Engineers, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe F. Carpenter of Doyle. He was born July 4, 1910, and attended Doyle School. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to entering the Army of the United States in the Corps of Engineers on Oct. 14, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Fort Belvoir, Va., and Camp Butner, N. C., with the Corps of Engineers, and embarked from Fort Devens, Mass., on April 1, 1943, for North Africa. Returning to the States, he served with the Corps of Engineers at Harmon General Hospital, Longview, Texas, where he was granted his honorable discharge on Aug. 3, 1943.

⑪ JOHNNIE WILSON WATTS, Sergeant, MD, AAF

He was born Oct. 28, 1916, and attended Doyle High School. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to entering the Army Air Forces in the Medical Department on Feb. 28, 1942. He received training as a medical technician at Brookley Field, Ala., and served at the Greensboro Army Air Base, Greensboro, N. C. He served at Grenier Field, N. H., in Medical Supply and at Fort Totten, Long Island, New York, in the hospital kitchens. Embarking for the European Theater on May 12, 1944, he served in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany as a medical technician. He

was in combat in Northern France, the Rhineland and the Air Offensive over Europe, and has the American Theater Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was discharged on Nov. 10, 1945.

⑫ THEODORE R. WASCOM, Seaman 1/C, USN

Husband of Eunice Wascom, Corbin, and son of Mrs. Florence Wascom of Corbin. He was born Feb. 14, 1919, and was graduated from Walker High School in 1938. He was an employee of Standard Oil of Louisiana prior to entering the United States Navy Sept. 9, 1942. From boot training in Chicago he went to Treasure Island, Calif., and was assigned to the USS Louisville, a heavy cruiser, with which he went to the Pacific battlefronts as a gunner and served there for three years. He fought in the campaigns of the Aleutians, Guadalcanal, the Marshalls, Peleliu, the Marianas, New Guinea, the Philippines and Okinawa. As gunner with the USS Louisville, Seaman Wascom has 10 Bronze Campaign Stars, including two on the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He was discharged at New Orleans on Oct. 27, 1945.

⑬ ERNEST ONEAL COOK, Fireman 1/C, USN

Husband of Vivian Murphy Cook, 3804 Charles Street, Baton Rouge, and father of Wayne Edward and Mary Elizabeth Cook. He was born Sept. 1, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jackson Cook of Denham Springs, and attended Denham Springs and Baton Rouge High Schools. He was employed by E. I. Dupot de Nemours Company prior to entering the Navy in Submarine Warfare June 30, 1944, in New Orleans. He received boot training at the U. S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif., and attended basic Engineer and Diesel Schools at Gulfport. He went to New London, Conn., and was assigned to the sub tender USS Eurydale from Pearl Harbor to Japan, and was assigned to bring a Japanese submarine to Pearl Harbor. He began overseas service June 22, 1945, and served on submarine duty throughout his foreign duty, returning to the States to receive his honorable discharge Feb. 5, 1946. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Defense Service Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.

⑭ JAMES P. COOK, Tec/5, Army

Husband of Mrs. Gertrude Duplantis Cook, 1055 Cyril Avenue, Baton Rouge, and father of Charles Jackson Cook. He was born April 30, 1916, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jackson Cook. He attended Denham Springs High School and worked as an operator at E. I. Dupont de Nemours. On Oct. 13, 1943, he entered the Army in the Corps of Engineers at Camp Beauregard, and was assigned to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for basic training. On April 4, 1944, he embarked for Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands and served on Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas and Okinawa and in the Occupation of Korea. He fought in the campaigns of the Marianas and Okinawa and has a Presidential Unit Citation for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy. Returning to the States, he was discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, Dec. 28, 1945.

⑮ WILLIAM MELVIN OTT, United States Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Murphy Ott of Watson. He was born March 1, 1926, and attended Live Oak High School. He was employed as an oiler prior to entering the Navy on May 23, 1944, at New Orleans. He received boot training at Camp Wallace, Texas, and was assigned to duty at the Naval Operations Base in Norfolk, Va. He also served at Quonset Point, R. I., and with the NAAF at Hyannis, Mass. He continued to serve with the Navy following the cessation of hostilities on the world battlefronts.

⑯ ERNEST DEWEY OTT, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Murphy Ott of Watson. He was born March 22, 1924, and attended Live Oak High School. He was a pipefitter and a dispatcher prior to entering the Army June 18, 1943, at New Orleans. He served with Battery C, 546th Anti-Aircraft Battalion, going to Camp Callan, Calif., for basic training and Camp Ervin at Los Angeles and Camp Ibis, Indio, Calif., for advanced training. He also trained at Camp Haan, Riverside, Calif. On April 20, 1944, he embarked for Glasgow, Scotland, and served in Scotland and England, receiving further training there. He fought as a machine gunner in France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany and Austria. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with five Bronze Campaign Stars for Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He also has the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged at Camp Shelby on Feb. 6, 1946.

⑰ JOSEPH P. LAMBERT, PFC, U. S. Army

He was born June 13, 1919, and attended French Settlement High School and Southeastern Louisiana College. He was engaged in farming prior to induction into the Army April 8, 1941, at Camp Shelby, Miss. He trained and served with the Field Artillery at Fort Bragg, N. C., Fort Jackson, S. C., Fort Sill, Okla., Camp Laguna, N. M., Camp Forrest, Tenn., and Camp Kilmer, N. J. He transferred to the Infantry on the eve of embarking Dec. 5, 1943, for Europe, and served in North Ireland, France, Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg. He was in combat near St. Lo, St. Malo, Brest, the Hurtgen Forest, the Roer and Rhine River Crossings, the Closing of the Ruhr Pocket, and to the Elbe River. He has Campaign Stars for Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Germany. This gallant infantryman has the Bronze Star Medal for bravery in action and the Good Conduct Medal.

⑱ CLAUDE F. LAMBERT, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis John Lambert of French Settlement. He was born April 10, 1923, and entered the Army Jan. 21, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He trained at Sheppard Field, Texas, Hammer Field, Calif., in Chemical Warfare, and received training for overseas operations at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. On Sept. 4, 1943, he embarked for England and served at Army Air Bases in England, in Chemical Warfare and Ordnance. He has the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Ribbon, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, and a Presidential Unit Citation for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy. He was discharged Jan. 31, 1946.

⑲ SIMON GUITREAU, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Morille Guitreau of French Settlement, and husband of Amy Catherine Guitreau. He was born Feb. 17, 1914, and attended French Settlement High School. He was a routeman with a linen supply firm prior to entering the Army Dec. 22, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He served with Infantry and Tank Destroyer units at Camp Beauregard and Camp Livingston, Camp Bowie and Camp Hood, Texas, Camp Breckenridge, Ky., Camp Atterbury, Fort Jackson, S. C., and Camp Shanks, N. Y. He went overseas Nov. 20, 1944, and served in England, France and Germany. He fought with tank destroyers in the Rhineland, Central Europe and France, and has the Good Conduct Medal and the Purple Heart received for wounds in action near Munich, Germany, on April 2, 1945. He was granted a medical discharge at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on Nov. 1, 1945.

⑳ CLARENCE EDWARD EVERETT, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Coast Guard

Husband of Ouida Belle Everett of Denham Springs, and father of Clarence Edward, Jr., Clifton Ray and Linda Belle Everett. He was born July 29, 1920, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Edward Everett of Denham Springs. He attended Independence High School and was a carpenter, ironworker, millwright and truck operator prior to entering the Coast Guard Sept. 5, 1942. He served at Camp Harahan, where he received training and was assigned to duty as a mail clerk. At COTP Barracks, Mobile, Ala., he served as mail clerk and ship's service store operator, being assigned to duty in this capacity from Dec. 10, 1942, to Oct. 6, 1945. He was discharged at New Orleans on Oct. 6, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① J. C. Watts

Staff Sergeant, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Watts of Livingston, La., and husband of Pearlie Mae Wheat Watts. He left one son, Malcolm Roger Watts. Staff Sergeant Watts was born September 22, 1921, and attended Frost School. Entering the U. S. Army Aug. 18, 1942, at Camp Livingston and received his basic and technical training at Infantry Replacement Training Centers in the States. In 1944 he went to Marseilles, France, and fought his way with the Seventh Army through Southern France, Alsace, the Rhineland, and into Germany. He was wounded in action against the enemy in Central Germany on April 17, 1945, and died of his wounds April 19, 1945, in a field hospital. He was entitled to wear the E. A. M. E. T. O. Ribbon with three bronze Campaign Stars for the Campaigns of Southern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe, and the A.T.O. Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for the wounds which cost his life in fighting for his country.

② James Victor Murphy

Tec/4, U. S. Army

Husband of Eudice Audrey Andrews Murphy, Star Route, Denham Springs. He was born April 11, 1913, the son of James Wesley and Ruth Banty Murphy. A graduate of Walker High School, he entered the U. S. Army in the Infantry on Oct. 11, 1940, at Fort Rosecrans, Calif. He went to Fort Lewis, Wash., as a motor mechanic. He served at Joylon, Calif., and went to motor mechanic school at Fort Benning, Ga. Leaving Fort Lewis, he went to Camp Pickett, Blackstone, Va. He embarked Oct. 24, 1942, on the SS Elizabeth C. Stanton for French Morocco, North Africa. He served as motor mechanic, Headquarters Company, 15th Infantry, in French Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia (Faid Pass). He served in the Campaign of Rome-Arno (Anzio Beachhead), Corsica, Sicily, the Invasion of Southern France, the Rhineland, and Germany. He was in combat in Tunisia, Casablanca, Bizerte, Anzio, the Arno River, Southern France, the Rhine, and Germany, and has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the American Theater Medal, the E. A. M. E. T. O. Ribbon with Campaign Stars, the French Fourragere, and a Citation from the French Ministry of War. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby.

③ Kevlin Joseph Berteau

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Berteau of Springfield. He was born Dec. 1, 1924, and attended Springfield High School, A farmer by occupation, he entered the U. S. N. R. on Aug. 31, 1942, at New Orleans and was assigned to the U. S. N. Training Station at Great Lakes, Ill. He served with a Seaman Guard Unit until Dec. 1, 1942, when he went to the Armed Guard School at Gulfport, Miss., and the Armed Guard Center at New Orleans where he was assigned to duty with his first ship, the SS Ile de Re as a gunner. He served on the merchant ship SS Ile de Re on one voyage to Puerto Rico and two to England as a gunner, then went to San Francisco from New York and served on the Honolulu, Hawaii, route for a year as gunner on interisland ships. He served around the world on the SS Willis Van de Vanter as a gunner. He has the E. A. M. E. T. O. Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the American Theater Ribbon and was granted his honorable discharge Oct. 3, 1945, at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Charleston, S. C., on a thirty percent disability basis due to a nervous condition.

④ Dail Reginald Averett

Private First Class, U. S. Army

Husband of Juanita Annette, and father of Patsy Sue Averett, of Baton Rouge, La. He was born July 24, 1919, attended 7th Ward School, and worked as a truck driver prior to entering the service. He was inducted into the Infantry on Dec. 3, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, La., and received his training as rifleman at Camp Shelby, Miss. On Sept. 5, 1944, he embarked for New Guinea, and he served as a rifleman in New Guinea, the Philippine Islands, and Japan. Private Averett participated in campaigns at New Guinea and South Philippines, GO 33 WD 45. He received the Purple Heart on June 3, 1945, near Mandog, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, and he has also the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with two Bronze Stars, the Bronze Arrowhead, the Philippine Liberation Medal with three bronze stars, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Jan. 7, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Woodrow Wilson Milton

② Jesse Ellis Milton

③ James E. Evans

④ Jim Talbert Mack

⑤ Berlin Marvin Mack

⑥ Eldridge L. McNabb

⑦ Odom Clement Matherne

⑧ Joseph Ray Aydell

⑨ Clarence C. Chandler

⑩ Elton Adrien Chandler

⑪ Joseph Carl Aydell

⑫ Wilbert Paul Aydell

⑬ John H. Henderson

⑭ Wilbert Louis Murphy

⑮ Guy Joseph Murphy

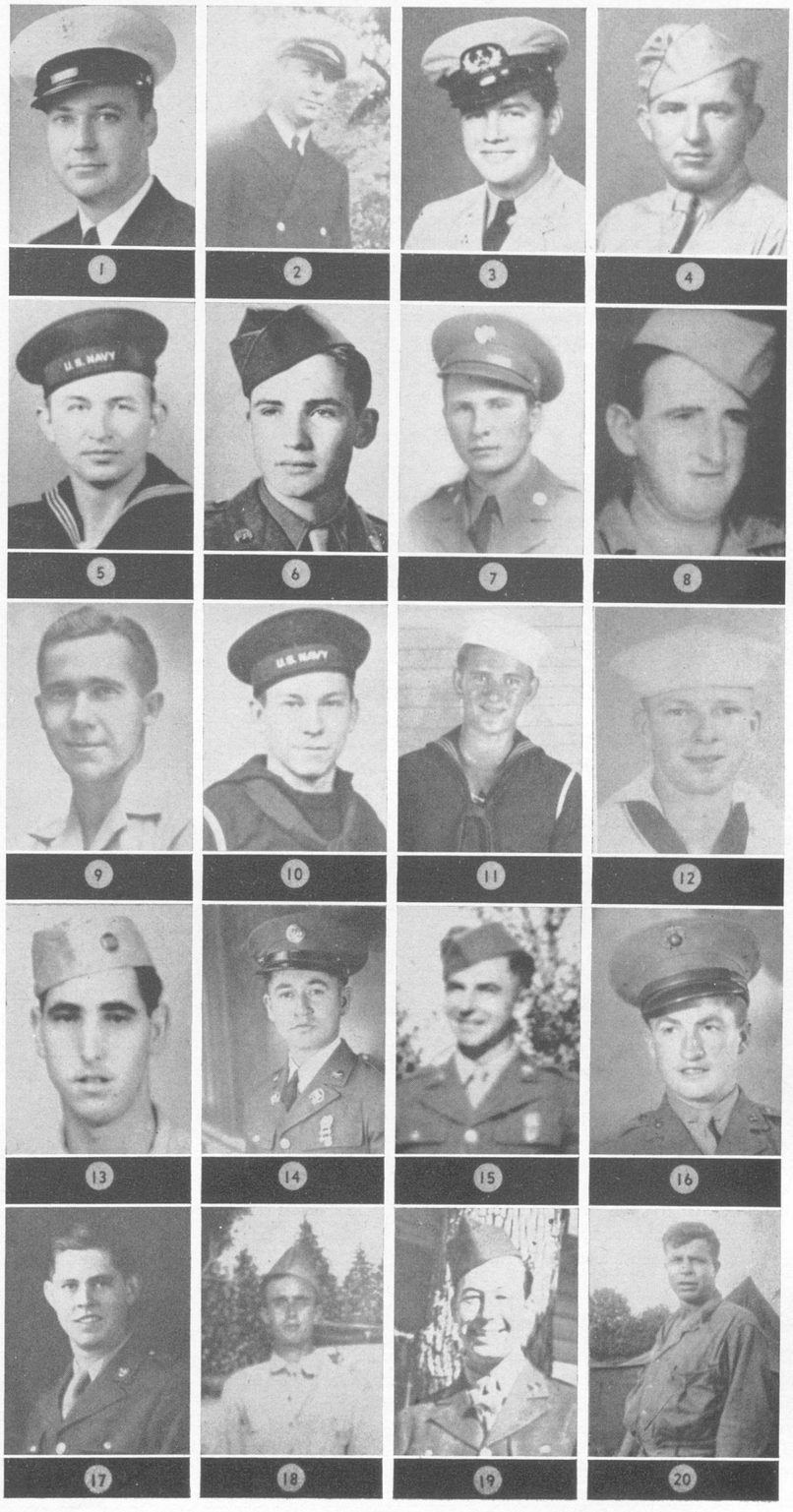
⑯ Leon Roy Murphy

⑰ Silvece Albon Martin

⑱ Edlee E. Wells

⑲ Herbert Levi Sanders

⑳ Jesse Norman Comeaux





① WOODROW WILSON MILTON, Chief Commissary Steward, USN

He was born Dec. 6, 1916, the son of George Michael and Louise Elizabeth Sibley Milton, and entered the Navy Sept. 26, 1940, at New Orleans, going to Norfolk, Va. He had served a previous enlistment beginning June 12, 1934, and re-enlisted on Sept. 26, 1940, embarking in August, 1941, for patrol duty in the Atlantic. Returning to the States in Feb., 1944, he was assigned to the USS Propus. Embarking in 1941, he spent three years in overseas duty and served in Spain, France, and Iceland. This gallant Navy man was killed in the line of duty at Jacksonville, Fla., on May 30, 1944, after two extensive tours of duty with the U. S. Navy.

② JESSE ELLIS MILTON, 1st Officer, USATC

He was born March 3, 1908, and attended Walker High School prior to entering the United States Merchant Marine in 1926 and serving in the North Atlantic, the Caribbean, the South Atlantic, and the Indian Oceans (1942-1944). He entered the Army Transportation Service on Feb. 22, 1944, and served at New Orleans Port of Embarkation. On March 3, 1944, he embarked for the Southwest Pacific. He served in Australia, New Guinea, and the Dutch Indies with the Army Transport Service. He was released to the WSA at Brisbane, Australia, on Jan. 13, 1945.

③ JAMES E. EVANS, Lt. (jg.), Merchant Marine

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Monteleone of Hammond, La. He was born Nov. 13, 1926, and attended Ponchatoula Grammar School, St. Paul's College at Covington, and Southeastern High School, Hammond. He entered the Maritime Service on Nov. 22, 1944, at New Orleans. He was continuing to serve as Lieutenant Junior Grade (Third Engineer) with the United States Merchant Marine.

④ JIM TALBERT MACK, Corporal, Army

He was born Oct. 6, 1909, the son of Edward Lee and Hattie Hartman Mack of Livingston, and attended Doyle High School. He owned and operated a grocery business in civilian life. Entering the Army Feb. 29, 1944, he trained at Camp Plauche, New Orleans, and Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla., and embarked Oct. 2, 1944, for the European Theater where he served in France, Belgium, and Germany, assigned to duty with the Army Transportation Corps. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon and was discharged Jan. 10, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

⑤ BERLIN MARVIN MACK, EM 2/C, USNRCB

He was born March 25, 1915, and attended Walker High School, Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Louisiana State University, and Southeastern Louisiana College. Entering the U. S. Naval Construction Battalions Nov. 30, 1942, he trained at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., Camp Endicott, Davisville, R. I., and Camp Parks and Port Hueneme, Cal., from which he embarked for Attu in Alaska on July 9, 1943. He served for two years and nine months with the 68th Naval Construction Battalion (Seabees) on Attu and Okinawa, and has the American Theater and Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbons with Campaign Stars for Attu and Okinawa. He was discharged Nov. 21, 1945.

⑥ ELDRIDGE L. McNABB, Sgt., Air Forces

He was born Nov. 26, 1925, and attended French Settlement High School and Louisiana State University. Enlisting in the AAF on Nov. 9, 1943, he entered service Dec. 24, 1943, going from Sheppard Field, Texas, to Camp Anza, Cal. On April 13, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Area and served at Wheeler Field and Hickam Field on Oahu, Territory of Hawaii. As a clerk-typist (405) he served with Headquarters Seventh Air Force and with Service Command, Headquarters Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Area, and Headquarters United States Army Strategic Air Force. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Western Pacific and the Air Offensive over Japan and has the Bronze Star and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Jan. 19, 1946.

⑦ ODOM CLEMENT MATHERNE, Sgt., Air Forces

He was born June 28, 1916, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clement Matherne. He attended French Settlement High School and was in the lumber business prior to entering the AAF on Jan. 16, 1942, at Camp Livingston. He served at Jackson Air Base, Maxwell Field, Ala., and served as supply clerk, handling requisitions, inventories, and records. He served in the American Theater of Operations, arriving May 3, 1942, in the Caribbean Area, Panama Canal Zone. He served as supply clerk, warehouse foreman, invoice clerk, and operator of supply trucks in the Caribbean Theater to August 17, 1944. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged on Oct. 12, 1945.

⑧ JOSEPH RAY AYDELL, Tec/5, U. S. Army

He was born Sept. 4, 1924, and attended French Settlement School. He was occupied in farming and in the planting, cultivation, and harvesting of strawberries. He operated a light truck at Fort Knox, Ky., and Fort Meade, Md., prior to going overseas. He embarked for the European Theater Dec. 6, 1943, and arrived in the China-Burma-India Theater Feb. 17, 1944. He transported personnel, equipment, and materiel over all types of terrain under blackout conditions and made minor repairs. He fought in the Campaigns of Central Burma and India Burma, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged on Dec. 12, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑨ CLARENCE C. CHANDLER, Private First Class, AUS

He was born July 6, 1920, and attended Live Oak High School. Entering the Army Dec. 22, 1942, he went to Camp Wolters, Texas, for 13 weeks of basic training, and embarked May 8, 1943, for the South Pacific. He received six months of intensive training in jungle warfare in the New Hebrides, and was in combat for thirteen months in the Northern Solomon Islands and for twelve months on Luzon, Philippine Islands. He was in combat with the 37th (Buckeye) Infantry Division, 129th Infantry Regiment, Co. C, in the Solomons and Luzon Campaigns and the Battles for Bougainville and Luzon. He has the Combat Infantry Badge, American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars, the bronze Arrowhead signifying assault invasion over the beaches, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal and Clasp, and the Victory Medal.

⑩ ELTON ADRIEN CHANDLER, Signalman 3/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Orien Chandler. He was born June 10, 1925, and attended Live Oak High School. Enlisting in the Naval Reserve on Jan. 9, 1943, he went into the Naval Transport Service with which he served in the Pacific Area throughout his term of military duty. He was in combat in the Naval operations around Okinawa and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one bronze star. He served as a Signalman Third Class with the Pacific Fleet. Returning to the States he was discharged at New Orleans March 9, 1946.

⑪ JOSEPH CARL AYDELL, United States Navy

He was born on June 5, 1926, and attended school in St. Fancisville, being engaged in the occupation of farming prior to entering the Naval Reserve on Feb. 14, 1945. He served at Camy Peary,

Va., and at Shoemaker and Treasure Island, San Francisco, Cal., prior to embarking on sea duty Sept. 4, 1945, going to the Philippine Islands. He served with USS LCI (L) 1005 at Subic Bay, Peary, Luzon, Manila, and Leyte in the Philippines, Eniwetok, and Pearl Harbor. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon.

⑫ WILBERT PAUL AYDELL, U. S. Merchant Marine

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Aydell of Port Vincent. He was born Nov. 21, 1927, and attended French Settlement High School. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to entering the United States Merchant Marine in August, 1945, at New Orleans. He received his training at the United States Maritime Service Training Center in St. Petersburg, Fla., and on the completion of his training embarked for Pearl Harbor. He served on Merchant Marine voyages to Panama and in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater to Japan.

⑬ JOHN H. HENDERSON, Corporal, AAF

Son of Mrs. Mattie Burns of Frost. He was born Oct. 23, 1923, and entered the Army Air Forces on Jan. 21, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He was assigned for training and duty to Miami, Fla.; Sheppard Field, Texas, and Jefferson Barracks, Mo. On Feb. 1, 1944, he embarked for Oran, North Africa, and served in Oran, in Tunis, North Africa, in Florence, Italy, and in Casablanca, North Africa, assigned to duty also as automotive repairman and as a truck operator. He was discharged at Barksdale Field Dec. 5, 1945.

⑭ WILBERT LOUIS MURPHY, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Husband of Juanita Murphy and son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Murphy. He was born Nov. 20, 1913, and attended French Settlement School and was with Louisiana Box Company prior to his induction Feb. 27, 1936, in the Army. He served at Camp Shelby, Miss., and at Camp Claiborne with the duties of mess sergeant. On Aug. 3, 1939, Staff Sergeant Murphy embarked for his first tour of overseas duty in the West Indies and the Panama Canal Zone. On September 20, 1944, he went to the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations for service in Central Europe, returning to the States June 10, 1945. He fought in the Campaigns of the Rhineland, the Ardennes, and Central Europe and has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal with one bronze Campaign Star, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon. He was discharged June 28, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑮ GUY JOSEPH MURPHY, Tec/5, U. S. Army

Husband of Marjorie Salassi Murphy and father of Eleanor and Nancy Murphy. He was born May 4, 1918. He attended French Settlement High School and was a pipefitter for Standard Oil Company, La., prior to entering the Army. He went to Camp Fannin, Texas, for 17 weeks of basic training, then overseas, embarking Nov. 1, 1944, for the European Theater of Operations. He served in France, Belgium, Germany, and Czechoslovakia with Company C, 16th Infantry Regiment, 1st Division. Corporal Murphy has the Presidential Unit Citation with two Oak Leaf Clusters and the Silver Star for gallantry in action, awarded for the attack on Bonn, Germany. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three bronze Campaign Stars for the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Germany. He was discharged on Dec. 15, 1945.

⑯ LEON ROY MURPHY, Corporal, U. S. Marines

He was born May 20, 1922, and attended French Settlement High School. Enlisting in the Marine Corps at New Orleans on August 12, 1942, he went to the U. S. Marine Corps Base at San Diego, Calif., for training and as a telephone lineman. He also served with the Marine Corps on guard and security duty in Richmond, Fla. On Jan. 20, 1943, Corporal Murphy embarked for the Pacific Area and was stationed in the Hawaiian Islands at Pearl Harbor and Woodlark Island as a telephone lineman. He served in New Britain (Cape Gloucester) and the Russell Islands as chief switchboard operator and on Palau as telephone wire chief. He was in combat at Cape Gloucester (New Britain) and Peleliu (Palau), and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars, the American Defense Service Ribbon, and Victory Medal. He was discharged Oct. 31, 1945.

⑰ SILVECE ALBON MARTIN, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

He was born Jan. 20, 1925, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Martin and attended French Settlement School. He was engaged in farming at the time of his induction and was also a welder. On July 20, 1943, he entered the Army and was assigned to Miami Beach, to Salt Lake City, Utah, with an ATU Compression Unit, and to Hering, Kan., with an ATU Compression Unit. He transferred to the ground forces Feb. 17, 1945, and received Infantry Basic at Camp Livingston, going to Manila May 3, 1945, as an infantryman. He fought in Northern Luzon, P. I., and Ie Shima and served in the occupation of Kanoya and Fukuoka, Japan. In the Luzon Campaign he fought on the Villa Verde Trail and Highway 11, and has one campaign star on the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon. He also has the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

⑱ EDLEE E. WELLS, Private, Army

Husband of Ruby Lucille Wells of Frost and father of Hilda Mae, LeRoy Edward, and Norma Lee Wells. He was born Jan. 27, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Allen Wells of Frost, and attended French Settlement and Springfield Schools. He was previously engaged in the occupation of farming. On June 14, 1944, he entered the Army at Camp Beauregard and was assigned to duty as an Infantryman at Camp Wolters, Texas. He was discharged Nov. 7, 1944, at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

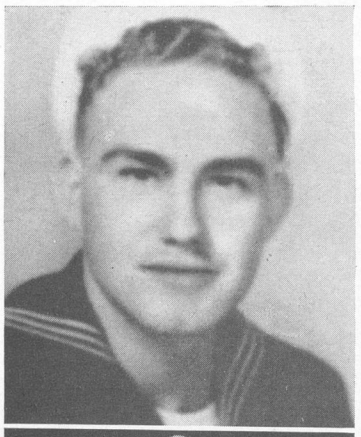
⑲ HERBERT LEVI SANDERS, PFC, Field Artillery, AUS

Husband of Hazel Hoyt Sanders, Rt. 1, Holden. He is the son of Mrs. J. P. Watts and the late W. T. Sanders of Frost. He attended Ponchatoula and Holden schools, and was engaged in farming prior to entering the Army April 8, 1941, at Denham Springs, and went from Camp Shelby to Fort Bragg, N. C., and Fort Jackson, S. C., with field artillery. He served at Carolina Beach on Guard Duty and went to Fort Sill, Okla., Camp Forrest, Tenn., Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., the Desert Maneuvers area of Calif. and Ariz., and Camp Kilmer, N. J., from which he embarked for the European Theater with the 56th Field Artillery Battalion, 8th Infantry Div., on Dec. 5, 1943. He served in North Ireland, France, Luxembourg, and Germany, and fought in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the European Theater Ribbon with Campaign Stars, Good Conduct Medal, and American Defense Service Ribbon.

⑳ JESSE NORMAN COMEAUX, Tec/4, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse D. Comeaux, Denham Springs. He was born Feb. 22, 1908, and attended Walker High School. On June 11, 1942, he entered the Army of U. S. with the Combat Engineers at Camp Livingston. He was assigned to Camp Pickett, Va., Camp Blanding, Fla., Camp Forrest, Tenn., Camp Laguna, Ariz., and Camp Phillips, Kan. On June 7, 1944, he embarked for England and served in France, Belgium, Holland, Czechoslovakia and Germany, assigned to duty with an infantry regiment serving as a Combat Engineer in demolition work, often in the front lines or ahead of the infantry. He served in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. This gallant combat engineer was discharged Nov. 19, 1945.

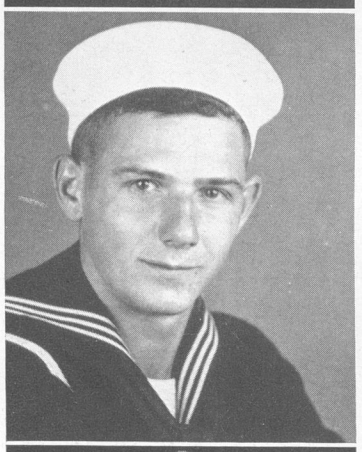
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



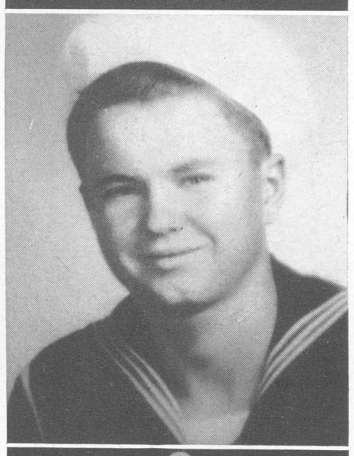
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② Clinton Stevens

Mo MM 2/C, USCG

Husband of Mrs. Emma Dixon Stevens of Holden and son of Mrs. Ollie McCain Stevens of Holden. Born Aug. 23, 1912, and a graduate of Holden High School, he was with the Standard Oil Co. of La. prior to entering the U. S. Naval Coast Guard on Sept. 2, 1942, at New Orleans. Motor Machinist Mate Second Class Stevens served at the U. S. Coast Guard Base in Mobile, Ala., and at the U. S. C. G. Air Station in Biloxi, Miss., throughout his term of naval service. He was granted his honorable discharge on points under the demobilization system at New Orleans on Aug. 31, 1945.

③ Wallace Edward Vicknair

Seaman First Class, USNR

Son of Joseph and Lillie Wall Vicknair of Springfield, Livingston Parish. He was born Aug. 23, 1926, and attended Springfield High School. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to entering the U. S. Naval Reserve on July 3, 1944, at New Orleans. He was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., and served with USS Mifflin APA 207, embarking Aug. 5, 1945, for the South Pacific. He served with the Navy in the Occupation of Japan. He was in action with the Navy in the Occupation of the Japanese Home Islands, and has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at the Naval Personnel Separation Center, New Orleans, on March 23, 1946.

① James Franklin Brown

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

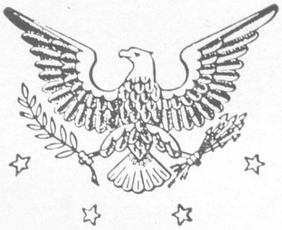
Husband of Mrs. Lila Mae Stafford Brown of Denham Springs and father of James Franklin Brown, Jr. He is the son of Mrs. Eunice Brown and the late James Franklin Brown of Denham Springs, and attended Denham Springs High School and Soule Business College. He was a business executive prior to entering the United States Navy June 26, 1944, at New Orleans. He went to the U. S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif., and to Camp Elliott, San Diego, for training, and was assigned to USS Roi CVE 103. On Oct. 20, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific area where he served to Dec. 8, 1945. He has the American Theater of Operations and Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbons and was granted his honorable discharge Dec. 16, 1945, at Terminal Island, Calif.

④ Vivian Edwin Settoon

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Vivian Edwin Settoon of Springfield, he was born Dec. 17, 1926, and attended Springfield High School and Southeastern Louisiana College. Entering the United States Naval Reserve May 16, 1944, at New Orleans, he served at Camp Wallace, Texas; Camp Elliott, San Diego, Calif., and North Island, San Diego. He embarked for Pearl Harbor Jan. 14, 1945, and served also in Japan, Okinawa, China, Guam, Saipan, and the Philippine Islands on ship duty. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and World War II Victory Ribbon and was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on June 11, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Wilson Talf Facundus

② Albert Avener Facundus

③ Amedee Paul Brignac

④ Roy J. Brignac

⑤ Alton Eugene Westmoreland

⑥ Louis Westmoreland

⑦ Leander John Kinchen

⑧ Vernon Lee Kinchen, Jr.

⑨ Audrey C. Milton

⑩ James E. Martin

⑪ Louis G. Milton

⑫ Kline Rushing

⑬ Lloyd Nicholos Matherne

⑭ Floyd Paul Matherne

⑮ Olin J. Matherne

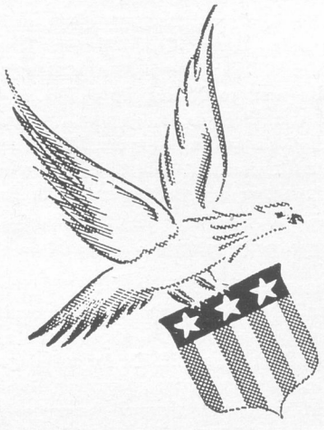
⑯ Ryder Zenor Pigott

⑰ Alton Louis LeBourgeois

⑱ Woodrow N. Chambers

⑲ Dewey Chambers

⑳ Ralph Chambers





① WILSON TALF FACUNDUS, PFC, Army Air Forces

Husband of Leona Facundus of Denham Springs, and father of Donald Wilson Facundus. He was born Oct. 6, 1913, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wyeth T. Facundus of Denham Springs, and is a graduate of Denham Springs High School. He was a carpenter prior to entering the Army Air Forces on Dec. 22, 1942, at Denham Springs, and went to Sheppard Field, Texas, for basic and for glider mechanic training. He was a glider mechanic at Bowman Field, Ky., and at Laurinsburg-Maxton Air Base in North Carolina where he served as glider mechanic and also trained for overseas service, going to Greensboro and then overseas. On Sept. 3, 1945, he embarked for Calcutta, India, and served in India throughout his term of foreign duty, with the Corps of Military Police. He has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby April 5, 1946.

② ALBERT AVENER FACUNDUS, Army of U. S.

Husband of Sybil Laura White Facundus of Denham Springs and father of Connie Bernice Facundus and Margarette Annette Facundus. He was born March 6, 1917, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wyeth T. Facundus of Denham Springs, and attended Denham Springs High School. He was a carpenter prior to entering the Army of the United States at Camp Chaffee, Ark., on Feb. 14, 1945. He also served at Camp Joseph Taylor Robinson, Little Rock, Ark. On Aug. 26, 1945, he embarked for Manila in the Philippine Islands where he was assigned to duty at Camp San Carlos in Manila. He was continuing to serve in Manila with the occupation troops in the Pacific area after the cessation of hostilities on the world battlefronts.

③ AMEDEE PAUL BRIGNAC, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Brignac and husband of Amelia Brignac of French Settlement, La. He was born April 29, 1923, and attended French Settlement High School. Brignac entered the service Jan. 28, 1943, and received training at Camp Beauregard, La., Kerrens, Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, and was later sent to Kilmer, N. J. He departed July 4, 1943, for overseas and participated in the bitter fighting of the Rhineland, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Air Offensive Europe and Central Europe. He is the holder of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, a unit citation, the American Defense Service Medal and the good conduct medal. He was discharged Sept. 20, 1945.

④ ROY J. BRIGNAC, T/5, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Brignac of French Settlement, La., he was born Aug. 8, 1921, and attended French Settlement High School. He entered the service in Jan., 1941, at New Orleans, La., and was trained as a truck driver, section leader, platoon leader and motorcycle messenger. Departing Jan. 29, 1944, for the European Theater he participated in the bitter fighting at Normandy. This gallant soldier was serving with a tank destroyer battalion in Poussay, France, when he was killed Sept. 12, 1944. The Purple Heart was posthumously awarded. He also received the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with one battle star, the American Defense Medal and Victory Medal.

⑤ ALTON EUGENE WESTMORELAND, Sergeant, Army Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Eugene Westmoreland of Corbin, Livingston Parish. He was born Feb. 22, 1925, and attended Walker High School. He was in the automobile parts business (management of department) prior to his induction in the Army Air Forces May 20, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. Sergeant Westmoreland served at Amarillo Army Air Base, Texas, Sheppard Field at Wichita Falls, Texas, Walker Army Air Field at Victoria, Kans., and Camp Anza, Calif. He was assigned to duty as airplane mechanic, crew chief, and aerial engineer, and served as crew chief (B-29) on Saipan in the Marianas Islands and as aerial engineer (B-25) on Iwo Jima, Volcanco Islands. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Marianas, Iwo Jima, and the Air Offensive over Japan and has the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with three campaign stars and the Aerial Engineer Wings. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Dec. 22, 1945.

⑥ LOUIS WESTMORELAND, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey E. Westmoreland of Corbin. He was born Dec. 21, 1926, and attended Walker High School. He was employed as yard clerk for Louisiana and Arkansas Railroad prior to his induction in the United States Naval Reserve on Sept. 8, 1944, at New Orleans. From the United States Naval Training Station at San Diego, Cal., he went to CASU 36 at Santa Rosa, Cal., and served with SOSU 3 at Alameda, Cal. He also served with USS Santa Fe CL 60, at the Naval Receiving Station in New Orleans, and at the Naval Air Station, San Diego. On June 18, 1945, he embarked for Tokyo Bay and served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. He also has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on April 12, 1946.

⑦ LEANDER JOHN KINCHEN, United States Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon L. Kinchen of Springfield. He was born July 18, 1928, and completed Springfield High School prior to entering the U. S. Navy at New Orleans on Oct. 11, 1945. The youthful sailor was sent to the United States Naval Training Center at San Diego, Calif., for boot training and expected to continue his training and serve with the U. S. Navy in its peacetime operations.

⑧ VERNON LEE KINCHEN, JR., Seaman 1/C, (GM), USN

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Lee Kinchen of Springfield. He was born March 7, 1925, and entered the U. S. Navy at New Orleans Feb. 27, 1943. He was assigned to duty at Naval Training Schools at Shoemaker, Calif., and Farragut, Idaho, for gunnery school, and embarked Oct. 28, 1943, for Noumea, New Caledonia. He served on Tulagi, with the USS Griswold DE 7, and in Bermuda and Panama. He fought in the campaigns of Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Okinawa, and the Occupation of Japan, and served in the Societies, at Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides, at Sydney, Australia, at Munda in the Russells and Vella-la-Vella in the Treasury Islands, at Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiians, Funa Futi in the Ellice Islands, Eniwetok in the Marshalls, Ulithi in the Carolines, Kossol Roads in Palau, and on Okinawa and at Yokohama, Japan. He has the Asiatic- Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with four bronze Campaign Stars and the American Theater Ribbon. Gunner's Mate Kinchen was honorably discharged Jan. 31, 1946, at New Orleans.

⑨ AUDREY C. MILTON, PFC, U. S. Army

Husband of Mrs. Audrey C. Milton of Watson and son of Mrs. Eva Milton of Weiss. He was born Dec. 25, 1925, and attended Live Oak School. On June 14, 1944, he entered the Army of the U. S. and was assigned to Camp Wolters, Texas; Camp Maxey, Texas; Camp Gruber, Okla.; Fort Meade, Md.; Camp Patrick Henry, Va., and Camp Shelby, Miss. He went to Naples, Italy, Feb. 6, 1945, and served at Naples, Casaerta, Bologna, Allesandra, Montecatini. He fought in the Po Valley Campaign with the 3853 Quartermaster Corps which received a Presidential Unit Citation for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy in Italy.

⑩ JAMES E. MARTIN, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Eva Milton of Weiss, Livingston Parish. He was born July 18, 1917, and attended Live Oak School. He entered the U. S. Army Nov. 5, 1941, at Camp Shelby, Miss., and was assigned to Camp Hood, Texas, and Fort Bragg, N. C., for training and duty. He spent 12 months in overseas service, departing Aug. 30, 1944, for England. He served as a driver through the campaigns of the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. After the cessation

of hostilities and V-E Day he continued to serve with the Army of Occupation.

⑪ LOUIS G. MILTON, Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Eva Milton of Weiss. He was born Aug. 10, 1923, and attended Live Oak School. On Oct. 10, 1942, he entered the Army of the U. S. and served in the continental United States for six months and 19 days with the Antiaircraft Artillery, stationed at Camp Wallis, Texas, Camp Hulen, Texas, Camp Shelby, Miss., and Camp Myles Standish, Mass. On April 29, 1943, he began two years, four months, and 21 days of overseas service operating a truck with the AAA. Arriving in North Africa at Oran he fought his way through Sicily and Italy and was in the battles of Cassino, Rome, the Gothic Line, Bologna, and others in the Rome-Arno, Po Valley, and North Apennines Campaigns. He has the Purple Heart for wounds received in action against the enemy near Gata May 28. With the rating of technician fifth grade he was granted his honorable discharge Sept. 27, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑫ KLINE RUSHING, Corporal, Air Forces

Husband of Ann Theresa Kelleher Rushing, formerly of 27 Kernochen Ave., Hempstead, Long Island, N. Y., now of Star Route, Denham Springs, and father of Elizabeth Ann Rushing. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Reynolds Rushing and attended Louisiana State University prior to entering the Army Air Forces Jan. 3, 1942. He served at Camp Shelby and Jefferson Barracks, Mo., and was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Co., 1st Air Force, Mitchel Field, Long Island, N. Y. He served with the 33rd Fighter Squadron, Dover, Del., and Blackstone, Va., the 83rd Fighter Sqd., the 126th Fighter Group at Seymour Johnson Field, Goldsboro, N. C., and 124th Static Crew Section, AAF-AAB, Blumenthal Field, Wilmington, Del., in technical supply. On Sept. 1, 1944, he went to Europe and served at Foggia with the 15th Air Force, and in Rome, Vienna, Germany, and Paris in supply. He delivered materiel frequently under fire. In Rome he transferred to the famed 26th (Yankee) Division. He has the Good Conduct, American Defense Service, Victory, and European Theater Ribbons.

⑬ LLOYD NICHOLOS MATHERNE, SF 2/C, USN Seabees

Husband of Mildred Matherne of Port Vincent and father of Lloyd Nicholos, Jr., Loretta Mae, and Charles Douglas Matherne. He was born Sept. 10, 1914, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clement F. Matherne of Port Vincent, and attended French Settlement School. He was a pipefitter and machinist prior to entering the U. S. Naval Construction Battalions Sept. 22, 1943, at the Naval Recruiting Station, New Orleans. After six weeks' training at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., he went to Port Hueneme, Cal., engaged in naval construction work. On April 5, 1944, he left California for the Solomons and did combat and construction work on Sterling Island. He did construction and installation work and served on guard duty in the Admiralties and Peleliu, and was also stationed on Manus Island of the Admiralty Group with the Seabees. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge Nov. 27, 1945, at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans.

⑭ FLOYD PAUL MATHERNE, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Clement F. Matherne of Port Vincent. He was born June 7, 1926, and attended French Settlement School prior to entering the Navy May 23, 1944, at Baton Rouge. He was assigned to U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Cal., for training. On August 24, 1944, he embarked for foreign service in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations and served in the Admiralty Islands and the Philippine Islands. After cessation of hostilities with Japan Seaman Matherne was continuing to serve with the U. S. Navy in the Pacific Area.

⑮ OLIN J. MATHERNE, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Clement F. Matherne of Port Vincent. He was born March 11, 1924, and attended French Settlement School. He was engaged in farming prior to entering the Army of the United States June 26, 1942, at Camp Livingston, going to Fort Knox, Ky., for three months' training and to Camp Young, Calif., for further training. With the Fifth Armored Division he served as a truck operator at Camp Cooke, Calif., throughout the Tennessee Maneuvers, and at Pine Camp, N. Y. He was honorably discharged Dec. 3, 1943, at Station Hospital, Pine Camp, N. Y.

⑯ RYDER ZENOR PIGOTT, PFC, U. S. Marine Corps

Husband of Florence Pigott of Rt. 1, Hammond, and son of Mrs. Antoinette Kennedy of Hammond. Born Dec. 16, 1921, he attended Springfield High School and entered the U. S. Marine Corps on Dec. 27, 1941, at New Orleans. From the United States Marine Corps Base in San Diego, he spent 32 months overseas, going to Pearl Harbor Feb. 23, 1942, for advanced training. He served on Efate in the New Hebrides with the followup force, then went to New Zealand and Guadalcanal prior to invading Vella Lavella where he served with the Marine invading forces. He returned to Norfolk, Va., with the Third Guard Company, Marine Barracks, and served on sentry duty in the States until granted his honorable discharge at Norfolk on Sept. 28, 1945.

⑰ ALTON LOUIS LeBOURGEOIS, U. S. Army

Son of the late Louis LeBourgeois of White Hall in Livingston Parish, La., and Mrs. Mary Dugas LeBourgeois. He attended Maurepas High School and entered the Army of the U. S. on March 2, 1942, at Camp Claiborne, Alexandria. After extensive combat training in North Carolina he embarked for overseas duty in 1943. Alton Louis LeBourgeois was killed in action against the enemy. He was presented the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat which cost his life in the military service of his country. The decoration was posthumously presented on May 14, 1945.

⑱ WOODROW N. CHAMBERS, PFC, U. S. Army

Lost his life in action in the bitter fighting on Manus Island in the Admiralty Islands. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Chambers of Denham Springs and was born Dec. 2, 1913. He attended Denham Springs High School and was employed by the Louisiana State Highway Commission prior to entering the Armored Force in the 8th Cavalry on June 10, 1942. He received mechanized cavalry training at Fort Riley, Kansas, prior to embarking in Oct. 1943, for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. This young cavalryman received the Silver Star Medal for gallantry and heroism in action against the enemy and the Purple Heart awarded posthumously for the wounds which cost him his life in the battle for Manus Island in the Admiralty Group. The stations where he fought in the Pacific are not all known, as he died in combat in the midst of action.

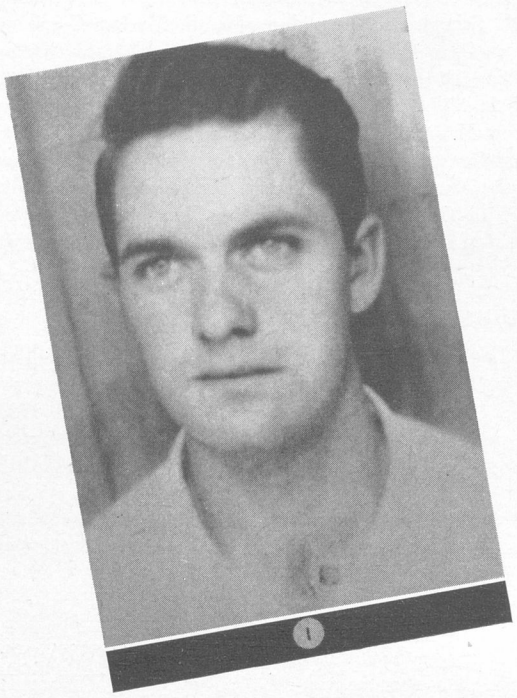
⑲ DEWEY CHAMBERS, PFC, U. S. Army

Husband of Magdelene McLinn of Walker and father of Ronnie Dewey Chambers. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Chambers of Denham Springs and was born May 21, 1918. He is a graduate of Denham Springs High School. He was engaged in the occupation of farming in civilian life prior to entering the Army of the U. S. in the Infantry on Feb. 10, 1942. He served with the 38th Infantry Division, 152nd Infantry Regiment in the continental United States and in the islands of the Southwest Pacific. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, on Nov. 7, 1945, after approximately three years and ten months of unselfish and efficient service to his country.

⑳ RALPH CHAMBERS, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Chambers of Denham Springs. He was born Sept. 24, 1915, and attended Denham Springs High School. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to his induction in the Army of the United States on Jan. 15, 1942. PFC Chambers served in camps in the continental United States throughout his complete term of duty with the Army of the United States and served at several camps within the States during his assignments to duty. With the cessation of hostilities on the world battle fronts he was continuing to serve in the Army.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① JONES SWETLEDGE

Infantry, AUS

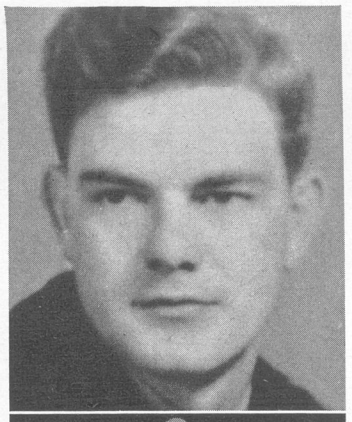
Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Swetledge of Walker, Livingston Parish. He was born Jan. 30, 1925, and entered the Army of the United States in the Infantry on March 13, 1944, at Camp Beauregard, Alexandria. He was assigned for Infantry training to Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark., at which he served as an Infantryman, going to the Overseas Replacement Center at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, for assignment to overseas duty. He served in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations and was in combat in the Rhineland and Central Europe, where he was wounded in combat with the enemy on April 21, 1945, in Germany. He was awarded the Purple Heart and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with Campaign Stars and the Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was continuing to serve in the European Theater with the Army of Occupation in Germany.



② JACK ALLEN

Sergeant, AUS

Son of Mrs. Beulah Allen of Denham Springs. A graduate of Denham Springs High School, he was manager of an automobile service station prior to entering the Army of the United States in the Armored Force on July 7, 1942, at New Orleans. Sergeant Allen served with the Second Armored Division at Fort Knox, Ky., Camp Campbell, Ky., and Camp Kilmer, N. J., port of embarkation. On February 7, 1943, he departed for Africa and took part with the Armored Force in four great campaigns, serving in Africa, Sicily, England, and France. He was on combat in the Campaign of Tunisia, the Invasion and Campaign of Sicily, the Normandy Invasion and Campaign, and the Campaign for Northern France. Wounded in action against the enemy, he was awarded the Purple Heart Aug. 26, 1944, at the 61st General Hospital in England. He also has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and was granted his honorable discharge on July 16, 1945, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

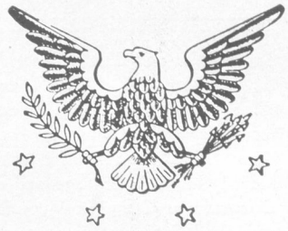


③ JOE BEN TYLER

Master Technical Sergeant, U. S. Marine Corps

Husband of Cora Lee Stafford, and father of Sharron Lee Tyler, of Denham Springs, La. Born Aug. 26, 1918, he attended Amite High School, and worked for the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation prior to entering the service. He was inducted Jan. 30, 1942, and received his training at the Marine Barracks, Pensacola, Fla., Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N. C., the Marine Corps Air Station, Oak Grove, N. C., Page Field, Parris Island, S. C., and at the Marine Corps Air Depot, Miramar, Calif. On March 7, 1944, he embarked for Pearl Harbor, and he served at Ewa, Oahu, Emirau, Admiralty Islands, New Hebrides Islands and Kadena Air Field, Okinawa Shima. Sergeant Tyler participated in the bombardment and neutralization of Rabaul and Kavieng, the capture and occupation of Okinawa Shima and Ie Shima, and the bombardment of South Kyushu. He has a Presidential Citation, and the Navy Unit Citation. He was honorably discharged at the Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, N. C., on Sept. 12, 1945. He is the son of Luther Martin and Litha McKinney Tyler of Denham Springs, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Jesse Earl Bendily

② Kenneth C. Bendily

③ Robert Cline Bendily

④ Charles E. Bendily

⑤ Clarence Carter Hopkins

⑥ Murrel Edmond Sullivan

⑦ Wickliff W. DeLatte

⑧ Robert Ellis DeLatte

⑨ John Edward Allen

⑩ Clifford Ernie Chambers

⑪ Willis Harold Chambers

⑫ John R. Bruce

⑬ Charles Lathan Brecheen

⑭ Robert W. Wilson

⑮ Jessie Leon Brecheen

⑯ Milton Louis Brecheen

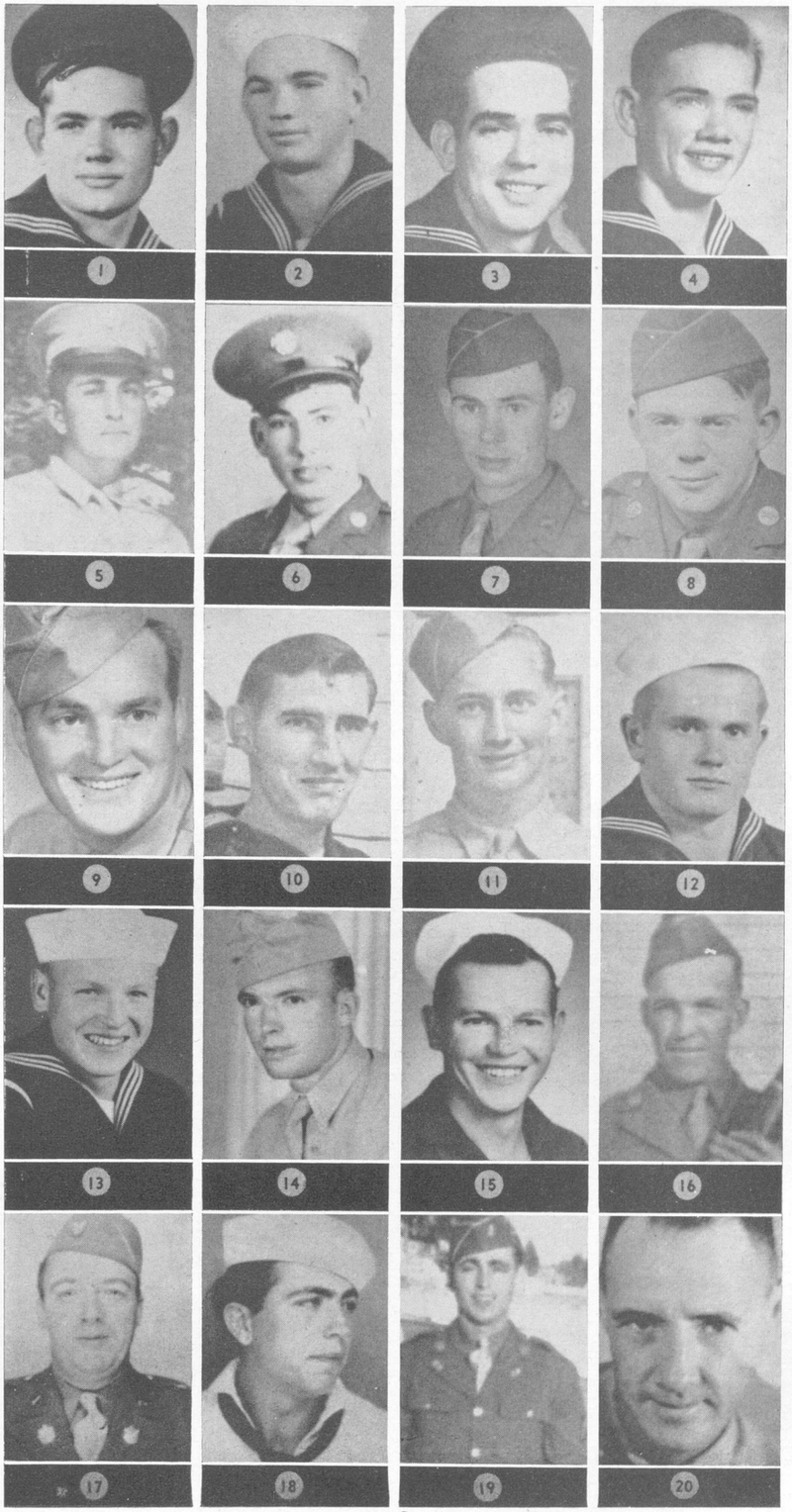
⑰ Henry Joseph Hendricks

⑱ Clarence Leon Moore

⑲ Oliver F. Moore

⑳ Romey Thomas Hano





① JESSE EARL BENDILY, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jefferson Bendily of Head of Island. He was born Feb. 10, 1923, and attended Walker High School and Maurepas High School. He entered the Navy on June 1, 1942, and was assigned for training to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill. He also trained at the Naval Training School for Armed Guard in Chicago and at the Advance Base Supply Training Command at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va. On Aug. 5, 1942, he embarked for foreign duty and served aboard ship in England, Africa, Sicily, Italy, and South America. He was in combat in Casablanca, Sicily, and Italy and fought in the naval operations and bombardments off the shores of these places. He was discharged at the Naval Air Base in New Orleans on October 31, 1945.

② KENNETH C. BENDILY, Coxswain, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jefferson Bendily of Head of Island. He was born March 8, 1925, and attended Walker, French Settlement, and Maurepas High Schools. He entered the Navy on March 2, 1943, and was assigned for training to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif. He served with the USS Lynx and with Navy 3864, Manicani, Philippine Islands. He departed from the Philippine Islands on Dec. 29, 1945, for Seattle, Wash., after serving throughout the Southwest Pacific and the Philippines. He served in the campaigns of New Guinea, the Philippine Islands, and Okinawa, and has three bronze stars to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon. Returning to the States, he was discharged at New Orleans on Jan. 3, 1946.

③ ROBERT CLINE BENDILY, G, 2/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Margarette Aime Bendily and son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jefferson Bendily. He was born Feb. 10, 1920, and attended Walker High School. He was in public service prior to entering the Navy on Oct. 19, 1942. He was assigned for training to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill., and served at Treasure Island, San Francisco, Calif., and Puget Sound Naval Yard, Bremerton, Wash. He was first attached to the USS Mapele, then to the USS Josiah Royce and the USS Cumberland Sound AV-17. He served overseas Jan. 4, 1943, to Nov. 14, 1945, and was stationed in the New Hebrides, Australia, New Guinea, Ulithi Atoll, Eniwetok, and Okinawa. He also served in Tokyo. All his duty was aboard ship supplying ground forces and installations, going in on invasions, and supplying patrol planes. He was discharged at New Orleans Nov. 18, 1945.

④ CHARLES E. BENDILY, Coxswain, U. S. Navy

He was born May 14, 1926, and attended Walker, French Settlement and Maurepas High Schools. He entered the Navy on Sept. 15, 1942, at New Orleans and was assigned for training to the Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi, Texas. He also served at Cuddihy Field, Corpus Christi, CASU No. 5, and to the USS Takanis Bay. He embarked from Seattle, Wash., for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. He was in combat with the enemy in the Philippine Islands and on Okinawa. He has two bronze Campaign Stars on the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon. Coxswain Bendily was released from service at New Orleans on Feb. 21, 1946.

⑤ CLARENCE CARTER HOPKINS, Medical Dept., AUS

Son of Mr. T. H. Hopkins of Holden, Livingston Parish. He was born March 20, 1920, and attended Holden High School, being engaged in farming prior to his induction in the Army at Camp Livingston on Feb. 27, 1941. He was assigned to duty at Camp Blanding, Fla.; Fort McClellan, Ala., and Fort Jackson, S. C., and served with the Medical Department as an ambulance driver, truck driver, and motor dispatcher. He served in the continental United States throughout his term of military duty.

⑥ MURREL EDMOND SULLIVAN, Tec/Sgt., Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Noah Sullivan, he was born Jan. 31, 1923, and attended Julius Freyhan High School at St. Francisville, Zachary High School, and Holden High School, where he was graduated prior to entering the AAF on May 25, 1942. He served at Camp Beauregard, Keesler Field, Miss., where he attended Aircraft Mechanics School; Casper, Wyo., as an aircraft mechanic, Grand Island, Neb., as flight chief and aerial engineer, Greensboro, N. C., and Jackson Barracks. He went to the Caribbean Area June 8, 1944, and served at Howard Field and Rio Hato, Panama, as aerial engineer on a B-24 Liberator Bomber, going to the Galapagos Islands and Karachi, India, in the same capacity. On July 1, 1945, he went to Alaska and served as engineer and crew chief flying a C-47 transport in the Aleutians. He fought in the bombing of Burma and Southern China, and has the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and Good Conduct Medal.

⑦ WICKLIFF W. DeLATTE, PFC, Infantry, AUS

He was born Sept. 29, 1908, and attended Denham Springs High School. He was engaged in the lumber business prior to his induction in the Army June 10, 1942, at Denham Springs. He went to Camp Pickett, Va., and Camp Blanding, Fla., for Infantry training and took part in the Tennessee Maneuvers, going to Camp Laguna, Ariz., for desert maneuvers and Camp Phillips, Kan., for duty before embarking from Camp Myles Standish, Mass., on April 6, 1944, for Liverpool. In the European Theater he received further training in England and landed in France June 15, 1944, on Normandy Beachhead. He fought in the Campaign for Cherbourg and was wounded July 14, 1944, in the bitter fighting at La Haye des Puites. He was discharged on Dec. 1, 1944, and has the Good Conduct Medal, European Theater Ribbon with one Campaign Star, Combat Infantry Badge, and Purple Heart.

⑧ ROBERT ELLIS DeLATTE, PFC, Infantry, AUS

He was born May 2, 1924, and attended Denham Springs High School. He was engaged in farming prior to his induction in the Army June 18, 1943. He trained with the Infantry at Camp Wolters, Texas, Fort George G. Meade, Md., and Camp Shanks, N. Y., where he embarked for the European Theater on Jan. 17, 1944, going to Scotland. After further training in South England he went to London assigned to Service Company, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces, with which he served also at Kingston and Portsmouth, England, St. Lo, Versailles, Paris, and Rheims in France, and the City of Luxembourg and Frankfurt, Germany. He served at Giesslingen and Bremerhaven, Germany, with the 127th AAA Gun Battalion and has the European Theater Ribbon with two Campaign Stars and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged March 27, 1946.

⑨ JOHN EDWARD ALLEN, Tec/4, U. S. Army

He was born Dec. 24, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Penny Allen of Watson, and attended Live Oak High School. He was a pump operator for a gravel company prior to entering the Army in the Corps of Engineers Sept. 9, 1942, at Denham Springs. He went to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for basic training and to Camp White, Ore., and Fort Lewis, Wash., on duty as a crane operator. On March 30, 1944, he embarked for New Guinea and served in the liberation of New Guinea and of Luzon in the Philippine Islands, fighting in the New Guinea and Luzon campaigns. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged Jan. 19, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Tex.

⑩ CLIFFORD ERNIE CHAMBERS, United States Navy

He was born April 22, 1924, and attended Denham Springs High School. He was with Gulf States Utilities prior to entering the Navy Oct. 20, 1942. He trained at U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Cal., and embarked for the Pacific Area aboard the destroyer USS Selfridge, with which he served in the Atlantic and Pacific areas. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Campaign Stars, and fought in the Solomon Islands, the landing and naval operations on Guam and Saipan, and the

First Battle of the Philippine Sea. He served on convoy duty in the Atlantic. He also has the American Theater and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbons, the Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

⑪ WILLIS HAROLD CHAMBERS, United States Army

Son of Mrs. George Howell Chambers of Denham Springs. He was born Sept. 14, 1926, and attended Denham Springs High School. Entering the Army Dec. 26, 1944, at Denham Springs, he was assigned to Fort Riley, Kan., for basic training in the Cavalry. He went to India July 25, 1945, and served in the China-Burma-India Theater of Operations. He was still in service following the cessation of hostilities and the capitulation of Japan, serving with cavalry reconnaissance troops in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater.

⑫ JOHN R. BRUCE, SC 3/C, USNR

He was born April 17, 1920, the son of Mrs. Denise Bruce, and attended French Settlement High School. He was engaged in farming prior to entering service June 6, 1942, in the Naval Reserve. He did construction work at Camp Allen, Va., Camp Endicott, R I., and Camp Elliott, San Diego, Calif. He was ship's cook at Camp Linda Vista, Calif., and Camp Rousseau in Port Hueneme, Calif. On May 1, 1944, he embarked for Hawaii and served there for nine months. He was assigned to duty on Iwo Jima for five months and on Okinawa for two and one-half months. He fought in the Invasion of Iwo Jima and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one bronze star and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Oct. 28, 1945.

⑬ CHARLES LATHAN BRECHEEN, Storekeeper 3/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Cary Milton Brecheen of Denham Springs, he was born June 4, 1926, and attended Pine Grove, Greensburg, and Freyhan High Schools. He was a stock tracer for the Army at Harding Field Air Base prior to entering the Navy at New Orleans June 2, 1944. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., he went to the Naval Auxiliary Air Station at Holtville, Calif., and the Naval Air Station at El Centro, Calif. He served throughout his period of military duty as Commissary Storekeeper, U. S. Navy. On July 5, 1946, he was discharged at New Orleans.

⑭ ROBERT W. WILSON, Tec/4, U. S. Army

Husband of Marie Brecheen Wilson of Route 1, Denham Springs, and father of Sandra Lynn and Robert W. Wilson, Jr. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Wilson of Denham Springs and attended Istrouma High School. He entered the Army July 7, 1942, at Baton Rouge and was assigned for training and duty to Camp Carson, Col., and Camp Butner, N. C. On Jan. 10, 1945, he embarked for the European Theater of Operations and served in France, Luxembourg and Germany. He fought in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe. He was discharged Nov. 13, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑮ JESSIE LEON BRECHEEN, Merchant Marines

He was born June 24, 1921, and attended Pine Grove High School. He was a sheet metal worker with Gulf Shipbuilding Company. On Aug. 8, 1943, he entered the Merchant Marine and received training at the Maritime Service Training Station at St. Petersburg, Fla. He served with the Deck Department aboard cargo ships in the Atlantic and Pacific war zones. Able Seaman (AB) Brecheen entered and left the United States ten times, and was in action at Mindanao in the Philippine Islands. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He received his certificate of service May 15, 1946.

⑯ MILTON LOUIS BRECHEEN, Army of United States

Husband of Iualie Goynes Brecheen of Pine Grove and father of Carolyn Diane Brecheen. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Cary Milton Brecheen of Pine Grove and attended Pine Grove High School. He was with Santa Maria Dairy prior to entering the Army July 12, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Camp Wolters, Texas, and Fort Ord, Calif., and embarked for Aitape, New Guinea, on March 15, 1944. He served in the Driniumor River section of New Guinea where he went into combat against the enemy. Private Milton Louis Brecheen was declared missing in action July 11, 1944, and on Feb. 14, 1946, was officially declared dead.

⑰ HENRY JOSEPH HENDRICKS, Private First Class, AUS

He entered the Army Oct. 8, 1941, at Camp Van Dorn, Miss. He served at Camp Steward, Texas, teaching tank driving, and at Fort Benning, Ga., as an infantry student. On Jan. 1, 1943, he embarked for Australia, and served in Australia, New Guinea, the Netherlands East Indies, the Dutch East Indies, and the Philippine Islands. He served for three years and nine months with the Army, one year and ten months overseas, and was taken prisoner of war by the enemy eight months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, remaining a prisoner for six months. He had the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Sept. 20, 1945, and was killed one week after his return.

⑱ CLARENCE LEON MOORE, Coxswain, U. S. Navy

He was born Oct. 12, 1920, and attended Live Oak School at Watson and Julius Freyhan High School at St. Francisville. Entering the Naval Reserve Sept. 30, 1940, at New Orleans, he went to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego and was assigned to the USS California. He embarked Dec. 15, 1940, for Pearl Harbor, and served in the Hawaiian Islands, Alaska, at the Recruiting Station at Pearl Harbor. Coxswain Moore also served with the USS West Virginia and the USS President Monroe. He was at Pearl Harbor when the enemy attack struck Dec. 7, 1941, and was also in combat in the strikes on the Aleutian Islands. He has the American Defense Service Ribbon with Star, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon. Coxswain Moore was also at the U. S. Naval Hospital at Treasure Island, San Francisco, and the U. S. Naval Convalescent Hospital at Santa Cruz, Calif. He was discharged (medical) on March 15, 1944.

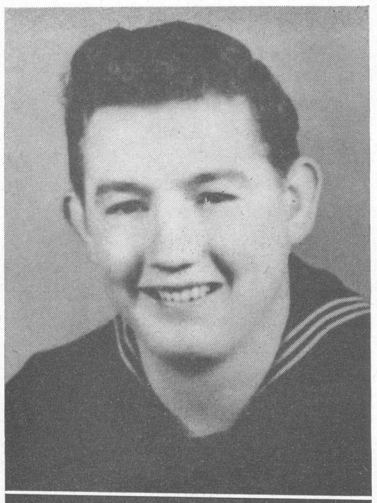
⑲ OLIVER F. MOORE, Tec/4, U. S. Army

He was born Dec. 3, 1918, and attended Denham Springs High School. Entering the Army on Feb. 10, 1942, at Baton Rouge, he served at Fort McClellan, Ala., Camp Shelby, Miss., Camp Carrabelle, Fla., where he received amphibious infantry training, and Camp Livingston, assigned to duty as an ammunition handler. On Jan. 1, 1944, he went to Hawaii and served also in New Guinea, on Leyte and on Luzon in the Philippines, assigned to duty as a radio operator. He was in combat at Subic Bay, the Campaign of New Guinea, Zigzag Pass, the amphibious assault landing on Bataan, the Corregidor Landing, the Zambales Mountains, Cabello, Fort Drum and Wawa Dam. He has the American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon (three stars), Philippine Liberation Ribbon (one star), Good Conduct Ribbon, Victory Ribbon and one Service Stripe.

⑳ ROMEY THOMAS HANO, PFC, U. S. Army

Husband of Thelma Elaine Hano of Holden and father of Winnie Mae Hano. He was born March 7, 1910, and is the son of Mrs. Beulah Hano of Holden. He attended Holden High School and was a farmer and a carpenter prior to entering the Army in Ordnance March 27, 1943. He served as an ammunition checker in Ordnance at Camp Maxey, Texas. Embarking for Europe Nov. 15, 1943, he served in England, France, Germany, Austria and Italy, loading ammunition for the front lines with Ordnance. He fought in the Campaigns of Southern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged Nov. 26, 1945, at Fort Bliss, Texas.

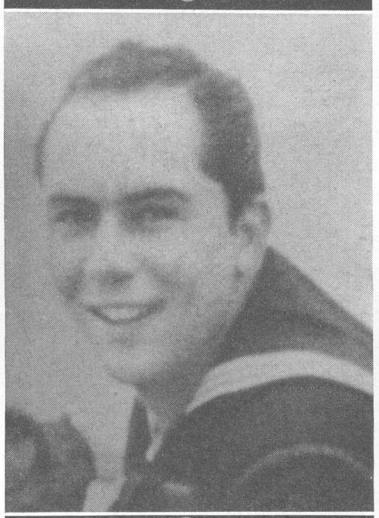
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



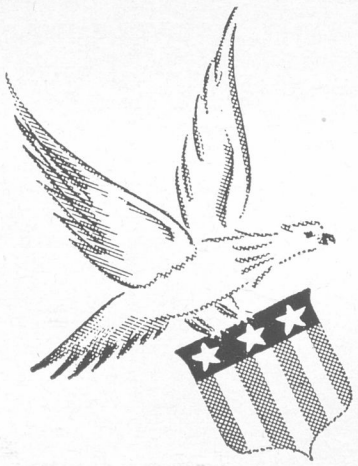
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① Richard Kent Field

Seaman First Class, U.S.N.R.

Son of Thomas Preston and Louise Kent Field of Fluker. He was born March 26, 1926, and attended Amite High School and Chamberlain-Hunt Military Academy, Port Gibson, Miss. He entered the United States Naval Reserve July 13, 1944, at New Orleans and went to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego. He served at the U. S. Naval Repair Base, San Diego, at the U. S. Naval Receiving Hospital, San Francisco, and with Troop Train Enlisted Personnel Pool, San Francisco. He was granted his honorable discharge at Shoemaker, Calif., on July 13, 1946, after two years of faithful and unselfish service with the United States Naval Reserve.

② Thornwell P. Field

Captain, U. S. Army

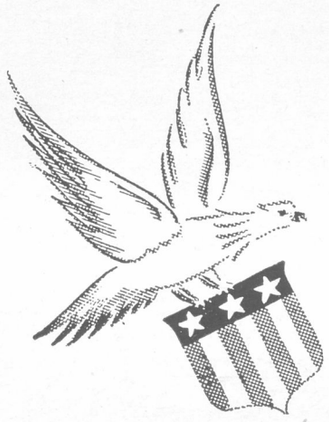
Captain Field was born April 23, 1920, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Preston Field of Fluker, La., and husband of Mrs. Betty M. Field of Amite, La. He attended Amite High School and Louisiana State University prior to being inducted on Dec. 5, 1941, at Camp Livingston, La. He was assigned to the U. S. Army Infantry and received his training at Fort Benning, Fort McClellan, Ala., Camp Pickett, Va., and Camp Hyder, Ariz. On March 12, 1944, he embarked for overseas and served with the 77th Infantry Division, 305th Infantry. He saw action in the campaigns in the Central Pacific, Southern Philippines and Ryukyus and holds the World War II Victory Medal, American Theater of Operations Medal, Philippines Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Star, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with one Bronze Arrowhead. Captain Field served his country loyally and unselfishly for more than four years and on Jan. 23, 1946, received his discharge at Fort MacArthur, Calif.

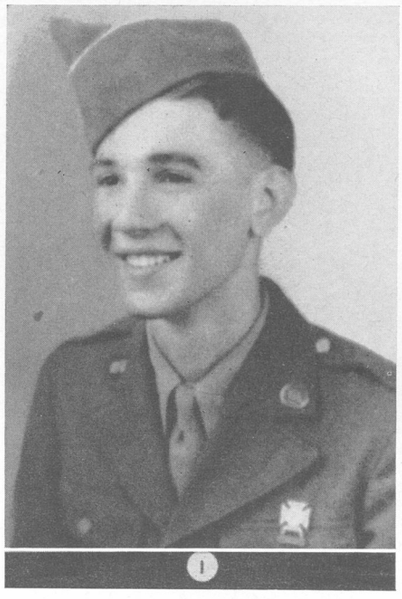
③ Arthur E. Hood, Jr.

Mo MM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Sue Field Hood of Amite and father of Bonnie Sue and Arthur Preston Hood. He was born July 16, 1920, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Hood of Amite. He was graduated from Amite High School and attended Southeastern Louisiana College. He was an automobile dealer prior to entering the Navy at New Orleans on April 19, 1944. From the U. S. Naval Training Center and the U. S. Naval Repair Base, San Diego and Terminal Island at San Pedro, he went to Lake Washington Shipyards, Houghton, Wash., from which he embarked June 1, 1945, for Pearl Harbor. He was stationed at Hilo, Hawaii, the Marshall Islands, Saipan and Guam in the Marianas, the Philippines, Okinawa and Wakayama, Osaka, and Tokyo, Japan. He served with USS Floyd's Bay, Fleet Air Wing 1, with which he was in combat at Okinawa, and with the USS Cleveland, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with one Star, the American Theater and Philippine Liberation Ribbons, Japanese Occupation Medal, and Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans April 27, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





① JAMES YARBROUGH

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alphonse Yarbrough and husband of Juanita Yarbrough of Ponchatoula, La. He was born Aug. 25, 1926, and attended Ponchatoula High School. Entering the service Oct. 25, 1944, Yarbrough received training at Camp Chaffee, Ark., Camp Fannin, Texas, and Ft. Meade, Md. Sgt. Yarbrough departed for Germany April 1, 1945, and served as mess sergeant in France and Germany. He is the holder of the Good Conduct Medal. Sergeant Yarbrough is still serving with the U. S. Army.

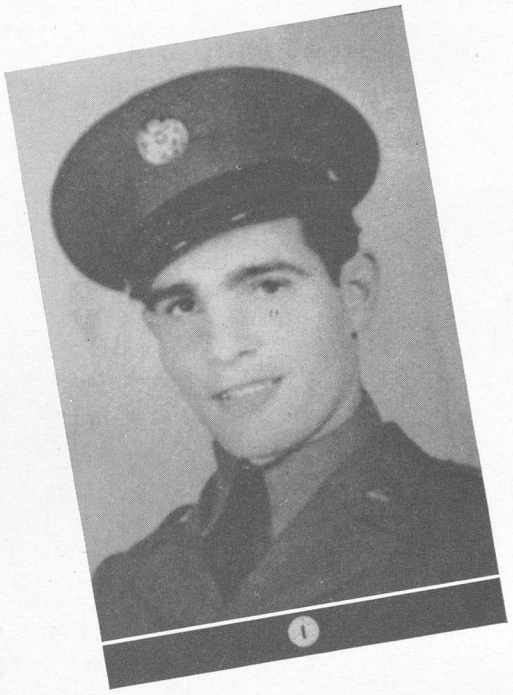


② JOE E. DICK

Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. Walter E. Dick of Kentwood, La., he was born April 5, 1916. He attended Pelahatchie High School, Pelahatchie, Miss., and Kentwood High School, and was later employed in a retail food store at Jackson, Miss. He was inducted Feb. 3, 1942, at Camp Shelby, Miss., and assigned to the Field Artillery. After receiving his basic training at Camp Shelby, and Camp Polk, La., he sailed for England on Sept. 5, 1943. Corporal Dick saw action in the campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes and the Rhineland and was awarded the Purple Heart in March, 1945, at Laon, France. He also holds the World War II Victory Medal, American Theater of Operations Medal, European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, Good Conduct Medal. On Dec. 6, 1945, he received his discharge at Camp Shelby.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



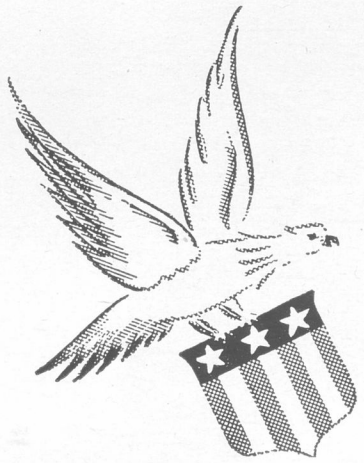
② William B. McIntyre

C.P.O., U. S. Seabees

Son of Mrs. J. Burns McIntyre and the late M. J. McIntyre and husband of Elaine Cuevas McIntyre, he was born Oct. 4, 1912. McIntyre attended Springfield High School. Entering the service Dec. 9, 1942, he received training at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va. He was assigned to the 64th Construction Battalion which sailed April 1, 1943, for Newfoundland where they remained for 10 months building the airbase "Argencia." McIntyre then returned to the States and was transferred to the 136th Construction Battalion which was shipped to the Marshalls and then to Guam where they remained for a year building airports, barracks, etc. Their next assignment was Yokosuka Naval Base in Japan. After more than two years of faithful service for his country he was discharged Oct. 17, 1945. He is the father of Phyllis and William B. McIntyre, Jr.







① Russell L. Costanza

U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Costanza of Independence, La., attended the public schools in Independence and prior to entering the armed forces was employed at the foundry in Benton Harbor, Mich. While serving in the Army of the United States, Russell Costanza lost his life in action against the enemy.

(N. M. I. A.)

③ George H. Moran, Jr.

PFC, U. S. Army

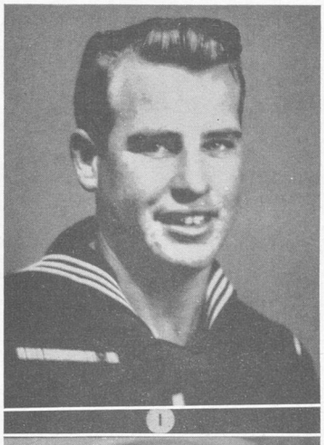
Son of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Moran of Akers, La., he was born Sept. 4, 1926, and attended Ponchatoula High School. Moran entered the service Dec. 17, 1944, and was assigned to Camp Fannin, Texas, Fort Meade, Md., Camp Stoneman, Calif., Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and Camp Polk, La. Departing May 30, 1945, for overseas as a rifleman with the 43rd Division in First Cavalry, PFC Moran participated in the Luzon Campaign. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star, Occupational Ribbon and American Defense Ribbon.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

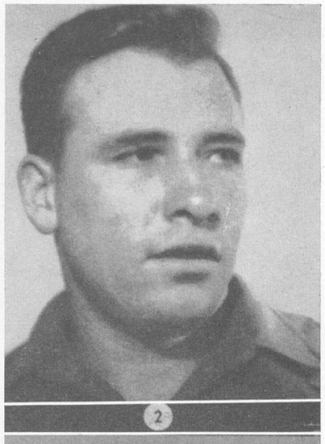
① James C. Saltzman

Seaman 1/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Saltzman of Akers in Tangipahoa Parish. He was born April 2, 1925, and was a fisher and trapper by occupation prior to his induction in the U. S. Naval Reserve at Hammond Sept. 2, 1943. From the U. S. Training Station at San Diego, Calif., where he received recruit training, he went to Shoemaker, Calif. (ship's company) and embarked for the South Pacific area. He went to Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, on Dec. 23, 1943, and served throughout the Pacific war-fronts, having 21 months of sea duty. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and World War II Victory Medal. Returning to the United States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Wallace, Texas, on March 18, 1946, on points under the demobilization system.



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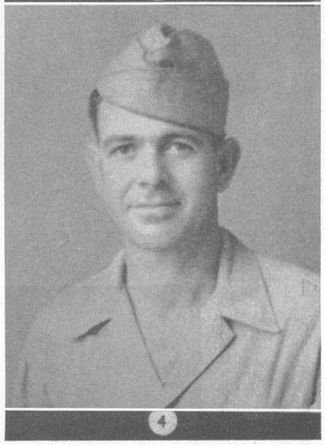
② Joseph William Saltzman

PFC, U. S. Army

Son of William Saltzman and husband of Mary Yuvonne Saltzman of Akers, La., he was born Jan. 8, 1917. Prior to his services with the U. S. Army Saltzman was a trapper and commercial fisherman. Entering the armed forces Nov. 14, 1942, at New Orleans, La., he was sent to Camp Roberts, Calif., for training. He received further training at Ft. Bragg, N. C., and Camp McKall, N. C. He departed June 16, 1944, for the European Theater where he participated in the Northern France, Normandy, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe campaigns. PFC Saltzman was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge, European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre Ribbon with five battle stars, American Theater Ribbon and Victory Medal. He received the Purple Heart with one bronze cluster. After three years of meritorious service to his country he was discharged Nov. 16, 1945.



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③ George Joseph Saltzman

PFC, Anti-Aircraft, AUS

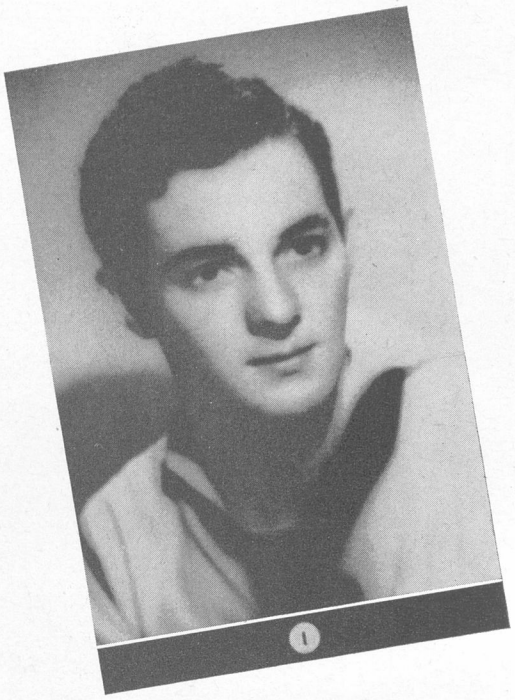
Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Joseph Saltzman of Akers in Tangipahoa Parish. He was born March 19, 1923, and was a fisher and trapper by occupation prior to his induction in the Army of the United States (Anti-Aircraft Artillery) on Jan. 4, 1943, at New Orleans. He served at Camp Davis, N. C., and went to Camp Fisher with Anti-Aircraft Artillery units, then to Camp Stoneman, San Francisco, Calif., center of embarkation. On Sept. 1, 1943, he went to Australia and served also in New Guinea and on New Britain where he went into combat. This gallant anti-aircraft gunner was wounded in action against the enemy Jan. 8, 1944, at Cape Gloucester, New Britain. He had the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one bronze Campaign Star for New Britain in the Southwest Pacific, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Purple Heart for the wounds which cost his life in fighting for his country on Jan. 13, 1944, on New Britain.

④ Ernest E. Williams

T/4, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Williams and husband of Myrtle C. Williams of Aker, La., he was born April 21, 1914, and attended school at Montepelier, La. Williams entered the service March 28, 1945, at New Orleans, and received training at Camp Chaffee, Ark., Ft. Knox, Ky., and Ft. Ord, Calif. He departed Sept. 26, 1945, for the Philippines where he served as first cook for a Quartermaster company. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Philippine Independence Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Award and Victory Ribbon. Williams was honorably discharged Oct. 28, 1946.

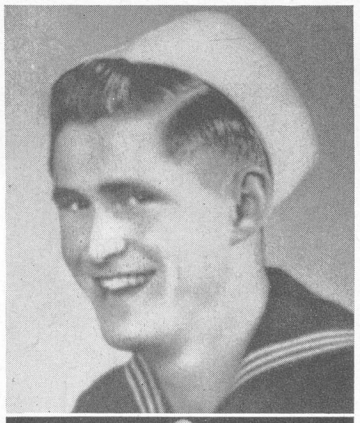
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

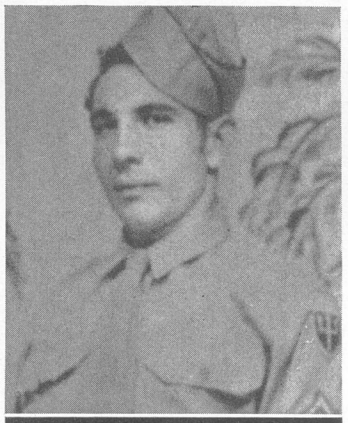


② James Allen Hyatt

Y2/C, U. S. Navy

James Allen Hyatt, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Hyatt, Ponchatoula, La., was born Dec. 19, 1924. He attended the Ponchatoula public school and Southeastern College at Hammond, La. He was inducted into the service April 21, 1943, at New Orleans, La. He received his boot training at San Diego, Calif. His overseas assignment was at New Hebrides Islands, then Guadalcanal, and he served in the communications office. Having served his country for more than three years, James Allen Hyatt is still in the United States Navy and is now at the Destroyer Repair Base at San Diego, Calif., on the USS Klondike.

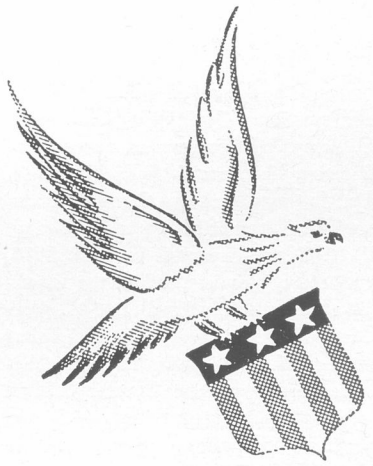




① Wallace Burdette, Jr.

BKR, 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Alma Cooley, he was born Jan. 2, 1926, and attended Winyald High School. Burdette entered the armed forces Sept. 20, 1943, and was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for training. He attended advanced welding school at San Francisco, Calif. Burdette departed June 10, 1944, for Pearl Harbor where he served at the Fleet Hospital doing maintenance work. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and American Theater Ribbon. After more than two years of faithful service to his country he was discharged Jan. 19, 1946.



③ Louis M. Costanza

Tec/5, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Felix Louis Costanza, Independence. He was born July 16, 1926. A graduate of Catholic High School in Independence, he was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to entering the Army of the United States Feb. 22, 1945, at Camp Chaffee, Ark. He transferred to Camp Maxey, Texas, to complete his Infantry training, and went to San Francisco, Calif., for overseas staging. He served with the Army of Occupation in Japan, being stationed for a time on Luehallian Island. He was assigned to duty with Cavalry Reconnaissance Troops, then became a member of the Corps of Military Police. He also served as a machinist and operated a heavy truck. At the completion of his term of overseas duty, Corporal Costanza re-enlisted for an additional period of military service of 18 months with the Army of Occupation in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Wilmer Henry Drott

A.C.M.M., U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius H. Drott and husband of Marie Lou Drott, he was born June 12, 1911, and attended Pochatoula High School. Entering the service June 15, 1928, Drott was assigned to Norfolk, Va., for training. He also trained at Pensacola, Fla.; San Diego, Calif., and Corpus Christi, Texas. Drott departed July, 1944, for the South Pacific and served on the Hawaiian Islands, Mariana Islands and Marshall Islands. He participated in the fighting of the Marshall Islands, Mariana Islands and Bonin Islands. Drott was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two stars, American Defense Ribbon, Victory Ribbon and Good Conduct Ribbon. He is a member of the Regular Navy.

② William Luther Drott

U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Julius H. Drott and husband of Rita Marie Gomez Drott, he was born May 6, 1915, and attended Ponchatoula High School and Southeastern College. Entering the service Nov. 21, 1933, he has served aboard the USS Tennessee, attended engineering school at Purdue University and General Motors Institute at Flint, Mich. He served two years as assistant officer in charge of Diesel school, Richmond, Va. He was then assigned to set up a basic engineering school at Great Lakes, Ill. Drott departed for overseas and was anchored at Pearl Harbor aboard the USS Tennessee on Dec. 7, 1941. The ship was badly damaged but able to return to a west coast navy yard under its own power. He also served aboard the USS Dauphin as chief engineer. Drott holds the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Ribbon with one star, the Good Conduct Medal with two Stars and Victory Ribbon. He is a member of the Regular Navy.

③ Oliver Ogden Watson

Electrician's Mate, 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Senator and Mrs. Eugene Benton Watson of Fluker, La., he was born Sept. 4, 1925. Watson attended Amite High School, Southeastern La. College, Miss. College, and LSU. Entering the service Aug. 8, 1943, he received training at San Diego, Calif., Camp Luce, Calif., and attended Officers' Candidate School at Princeton University. Watson served for two and one-half years in the South Pacific with a Duty Destroyer Force. He was discharged Oct. 31, 1945.

④ Clarence Barden Faller

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Cornelius Faller of Tickfaw, La. He was born Jan. 28, 1917, attended Independence High School and Southeastern College at Hammond, and entered the retail feed and seed business in Hammond in August, 1940. He was inducted at New Orleans on Sept. 15, 1942, and was assigned to the 122nd Observation Squadron. On Oct. 22, 1942, he embarked for Africa and served at Casablanca. He was killed on a mission out from Casablanca on Jan. 7, 1943, when the plane crashed into a mountainside somewhere in North Africa. As this was considered a very dangerous mission, only volunteers were taken on this mission, and all occupants of the plane were killed in the crash. The Purple Heart was awarded in February, 1943.



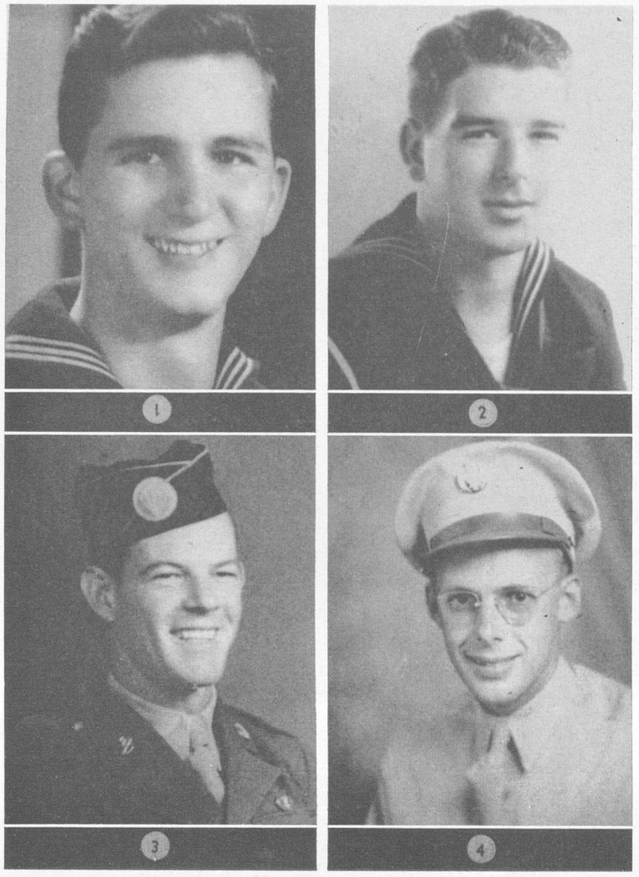


Arthur Carter Harvell

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest C. Harvell, Kentwood, La., and husband of Mrs. Dorothy Forshag Harvell, Amite, La., was born March 16, 1917. He attended Hammond High School, Hammond, La., Southeastern Louisiana College, Hammond, La., and Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La., and was later employed as band director and music teacher at Tylertown High School, Tylertown, Miss. On Dec. 19, 1942, he was inducted at Tylertown, Miss., and assigned to the Infantry. Upon completion of his training in the States, he sailed for Italy in July, 1944, and saw action in the Italian campaign from Oct. 9 to November 22, 1944, when this courageous soldier was fatally wounded near Mt. Belmonte, Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with one Bronze Star, Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Good Conduct Medal.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Roy Gerard Fisher

Officer, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Fisher of Ponchatoula. He was born June 7, 1923, and attended Ponchatoula High School. Entering the U. S. Navy Jan. 1, 1942, at New Orleans, he received boot training at Norfolk, Va., and on Jan. 28, 1942, reported for duty aboard the USS Kent, a transport, operating in the Atlantic until it was decommissioned in March, 1942. From Pier 92, New York, he was assigned to Sub Chaser Training Center at Miami. On June 10, 1942, he embarked with the USS PC 566, commissioned at Galveston, Texas, and served on escort and patrol duty in the Gulf of Mexico until embarking in October, 1942, for duty between Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and Trinidad, B. W. I. Returning to Miami with his ship as a training ship, he was assigned to Navy V-12 and sent to Harvard University for training. On July 5, 1945, he was transferred to Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps at Harvard. He enlisted in the Regular Navy for six years and would complete his enlistment January 1, 1948. He was awarded the Good Conduct Bar.

② Paul Wayne

Coxswain, U. S. Navy

Husband of Pauline Connolly Wayne, and father of Cheryl Elizabeth Wayne of Amite, La. He was born July 30, 1924, and attended Amite High School and Southeastern Louisiana College. Inducted July 20, 1943, at New Orleans, he received his training at Camp Peary, Va.; Camp Endicott, R. I.; Camp Parks, Calif., and at Camp Rousseau, Calif. On Oct. 26, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served at Guivan and Samar. Coxswain Wayne participated in the campaign at Leyte. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans, La., on Dec. 27, 1945. He is the son of Mr. N. B. and Mrs. Margie Amacker Wayne of Amite.

③ John D. Stout

Technical Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Virginia Varnado Stout of Amite, Louisiana. He was born Oct. 31, 1916, and attended Cumberland College in Kentucky. He was inducted Aug. 4, 1936, at Fort Thomas, Ky., and received his basic training at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. In 1939 he was discharged and re-enlisted at Fort Thomas. He served then at Camp Grant, Ill.; Fort McClellan, Ala.; Fort Benning, Ga., and Camp Myles Standish, Mass. Sgt. Stout served both with the Coast Artillery and with the Paratroops in the European Theater, and in Panama. He participated in the Rhineland, Central European and Ardennes campaigns. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three bronze stars, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was awarded the Purple Heart in Belgium, Jan. 4, 1945. He was honorably discharged at Camp Atterbury, Ind., Sept. 21, 1945. Sgt. Stout is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James S. Stout of Williamsburg, Ky.

④ Clinton M. Gill

Army Air Forces

Son of Mrs. Geneva S. Gill of Amite. He was born Oct. 8, 1918, and attended Amite schools, working as a bakery representative until his enlistment in the AAF Sept. 16, 1942, at New Orleans. He received basic training at Keesler Field., Miss., then went to Chicago for training at AAF Technical Training Command School. He served at Boca Raton, Fla.; Hammer Field, Calif.; Muroc AAB, Muroc, Calif.; Dalhart AAB, Dalhart, Texas, and Kearney, Neb. On March 9, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater of Operations. He served throughout the great Air Offensive over Europe and was killed in action against the enemy on April 11, 1944, over Stettin, Germany, while serving with the 327th Bombardment Squadron, 92nd Bombardment Group. This valorous airman had the European Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Purple Heart which was awarded posthumously for the action in which he lost his life.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



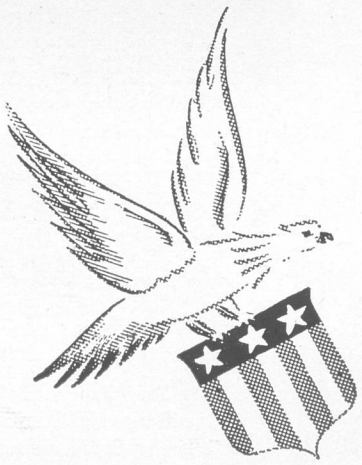
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① Herbert Alexis Howard

EM 3/C, U. S. Navy (R)

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Howard, 201 North Linden Street, Hammond. He was born Dec. 3, 1926, and attended Natalbany, St. Thomas Aquinas, and Hammond High Schools and Southeastern Training School. Entering the United States Naval Reserve Dec. 28, 1943, at New Orleans, he went to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, the University of Kansas at Lawrence, Kan., Camp Bradford, Va. (Amphibious Training Base), Sperry Gyro School at Boston, Mass., and was assigned to LST service. In October, 1944, he embarked for the South Pacific, and served on Saipan, Philippine Islands, Okinawa, Ie Shima, and in the Occupation of Japan, aboard USS LST 949. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Okinawa and Ie Shima and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon and Victory Medal. Discharged at Pearl Harbor, T. H., May 17, 1946, he accepted a position with the Naval Air Depot there.

② Joseph Triche Howard

EM 2/C, U. S. Navy (R)

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Howard, 201 North Linden Avenue, Hammond. He was born Dec. 12, 1917, and attended Hammond High School. He was an electrician prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve April 21, 1943, at New Orleans. From boot camp at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, he went to the U. S. Navy Yard, Mare Island, Calif., on temporary duty and served in salvage and fire-fighting duties. He received training aboard USS ATR 50 at San Pedro and embarked June 1, 1944, for Pearl Harbor where he served in salvage and rescue assignments at the U. S. Navy Yard, transferring to USSC 1369 for Amphibious Training and Operations. On Aug. 23, 1944, he went to Aiea Naval Hospital, Pearl Harbor, then returned to the States aboard the USS General George McRae in October, 1944, for further hospitalization at Oakland Naval Hospital. He was granted a medical discharge on April 27, 1945, at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Corona, Calif.

③ Paul Edward Howard

Electrician Second Class, U. S. N.

Son of Josiah Alexis Howard and Mrs. Eva Triche Howard, 201 North Linden Street, Hammond. He was born at Natalbany Oct. 8, 1924, and attended Natalbany and Hammond High Schools. He was with Capitol Stores at Hammond prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on July 21, 1942, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., he served at Minneapolis, Minn., San Francisco, Calif., Camp Peary at Williamsburg, Va., at Washington, D. C., and Philadelphia, Pa. On Jan. 18, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific area assigned to duty with the USS Pennsylvania and the USS Princeton with which he served in the Aleutians, the Gilbert Islands, the Marshalls, the Marianas, the Western Carolines and the Philippine Islands. He has the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal, and was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans Dec. 19, 1945.

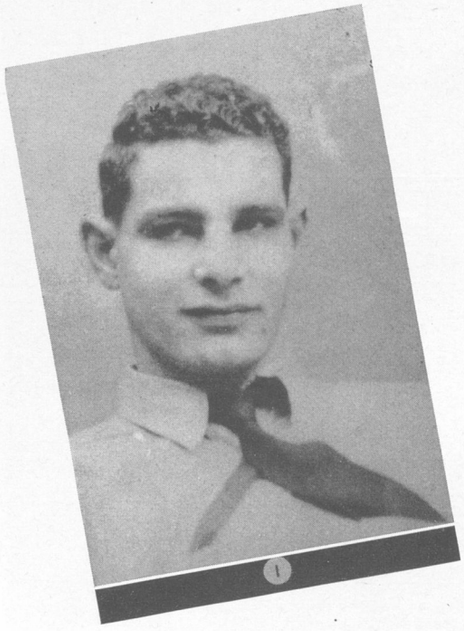
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Anthony B. Costanza, Jr.

U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony B. Costanza, Sr., of Amite, La. He was born Dec. 30, 1924, and received his education at the public schools of Independence, La. Upon completion of high school, he entered the U. S. Navy. This was March 5, 1942. This gallant sailor gave his life in the service of his country.

(N. M. I. A.)

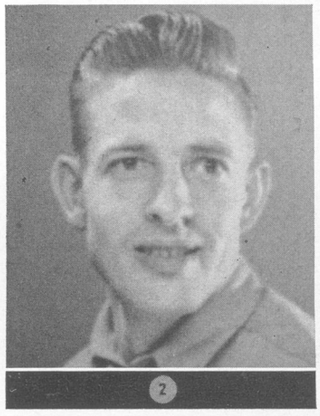


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② Homer Allen Booty

Private, U. S. Army

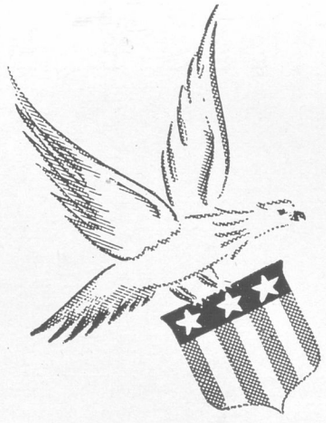
Husband of Hazel Phillips Booty of Baton Rouge and son of Mr. and Mrs. Fountain Booty of Route 3, Osyka, Miss. He was born Oct. 19, 1922, and attended Spring Creek High School. He was engaged in farming prior to entering the Army of the United States on Sept. 12, 1940, at Fort Benning, Ga. He received training at Fort Benning, Ga., and at Camp Beauregard and at Fort Jackson, S. C. On Jan. 6, 1942, he embarked for Northern Ireland where he received further intensive combat training in preparation for the Invasion of Europe. He also trained in England with American troops preparing for D-Day. Private Booty was killed in an accident while operating an Army vehicle in England on Jan. 14, 1944. He died at Turo, Cornwall, England.



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③ Hunter Edward Dobson

Chief Petty Officer, U. S. Navy

He was born Jan. 10, 1901. He attended Franklinton High School, Bogalusa High School, Soule College and the University of Tennessee. Enlisted Aug. 1, 1942, and was assigned to Naval Construction Battalion. After boot training at Camp Peary, Va., was transferred to the 54th Naval Construction Battalion and was sent overseas, landing at Oran, Africa, March 28, 1943. He participated in the construction of secret bases in Algeria and Tunisia, and repaired damaged invasion craft, and participated in the Tunisian campaign, Sicilian Occupation and Salerno Landings. He has the Victory Medal for World War I, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Expert Rifleman's Badge and the Victory Medal for World War II. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans, on Sept. 26, 1945.





Anthony Joseph Graphia

SC 3/C, U. S. Navy

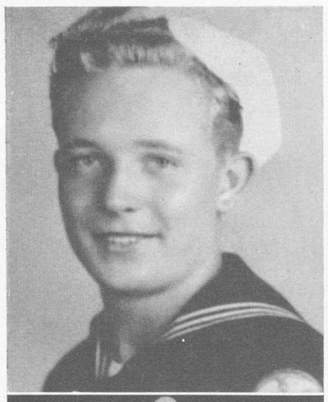
Son of Mrs. Mary Frances Graphia of Hammond, La., was born Oct. 10, 1926. After attending schools in Baton Rouge and Hammond, La., he was employed in newspaper work prior to entering the service Nov. 23, 1942. He was assigned to the U. S. Navy and received his boot training at San Diego, Calif. In 1943 he sailed for Australia aboard the submarine USS Scamp which was torpedoed by a Jap plane but was brought back. He sailed again in June, 1944, on the USS Scamp which was sunk on Nov. 14, 1944. This brave young sailor was only 16 years old when he entered the U. S. Navy with permission from his parents and he was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. He was also awarded the Submarine Combat Badge, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

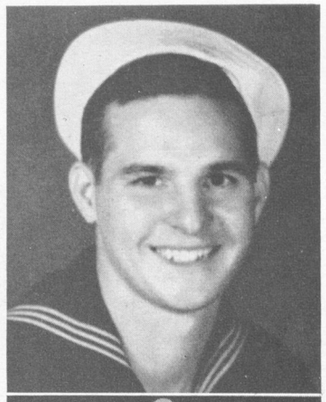
① Maurice Leroy Miller, Jr.

Quartermaster Third Class, U. S. Navy

Son of Maurice Leroy, Sr., and Jessie Smith Miller, 809 East Morris Street, Hammond, La. He was born June 19, 1926, and attended Southeastern Louisiana College. Inducted June 21, 1944, at New Orleans, he received his training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., and at the Landing Craft School, San Diego. He was then assigned to the USS Okanogan (APA 220) as Signalman. On Feb. 14, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served in the Hawaiian Islands, Marshall Islands, Caroline Islands, Okinawa Shima, Saipan, Guam, Leyte, Manila, Subic Bay, and Japan. He participated in the campaigns at Okinawa, the Philippine Liberation, and the occupation of Japan. He has the American Theatre of Operations Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with one battle star, and the Philippine Liberation Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on Feb. 14, 1946.



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② Joseph Herbert Caillot

Radioman Third Class, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Vera Caillot, Box 461, Ponchatoula, La. He was born Aug. 28, 1923, attended St. Paul's College, and Communications School, in San Diego, Calif. Inducted April 7, 1941, at New Orleans, he received training at the NTS, San Diego, Calif., the NTC, Miami, Fla., the NOB, Norfolk, Va., and the U. S. Naval Personnel Center, Shelton, Va. On Dec. 17, 1941, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served as radioman aboard the heavy cruiser USS Pensacola and the USS Carpellotti. Radioman Third Class Caillot participated in the campaigns at Midway, Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Taroa and Wotje, Marshall Islands, Wake Island, Marcus Island, Iwo Jima, Matzua and Paramarchua, and the Aleutian Islands. He has the American Defense Service Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with ten battle stars, the American Theater of Operations Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Shelton, Va., on Sept. 24, 1945.

③ Hollis June Cutrer

Corporal, Signal Corps, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Mildred Hadler Cutrer of Baton Rouge and son of Joseph Marion and Corine Wilson Cutrer of Roseland. He was born June 21, 1917, and attended Roseland and Amite High Schools. He was with the Amite Progress and owned and operated a service station at Baton Rouge prior to entering the Army April 1, 1942. He served at Camp Livingston, Camp Crowder, Mo., Camp Edwards, Mass., A. P. Hill Military Reservation, Fort Dix, N. J., and Camp Myles Standish, Mass., with the 94th Signal Battalion as Battalion Mail Clerk. Going to the European Theater Oct. 4, 1944, he served in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany, assigned to duty as battalion mail clerk, and fought in the Campaigns of the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the ETO Ribbon with four bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the Distinguished Unit Citation Badge, and the World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby Jan. 2, 1946.

④ O. D. Cutrer

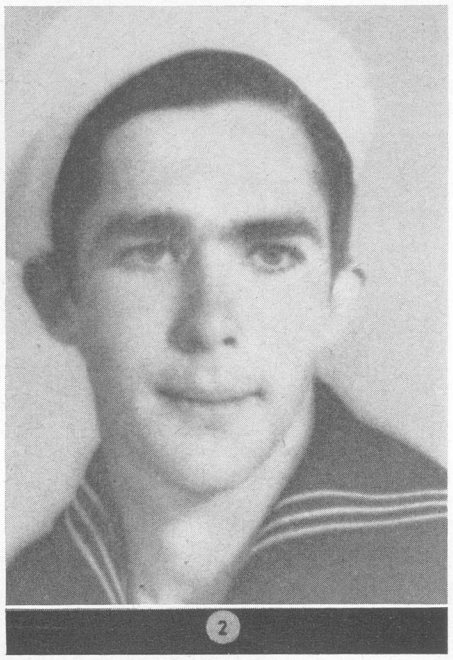
PFC, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Marion Cutrer of Roseland. He was born April 15, 1924, and attended Roseland Junior High School. He operated a truck and service station prior to entering the Army of the U. S. on Oct. 15, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He served with the Infantry at Camp Roberts, Calif., and Fort George G. Meade, Md. Embarking for the European Theater of Operations on April 4, 1944, he served in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. He fought in Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the Purple Heart with two Oak Leaf Clusters for St. Lo, Paris, and the Hurtgen Forest, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with five bronze Campaign Stars, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Presidential Unit Citation, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged Dec. 15, 1944, at Camp Croft, South Carolina.

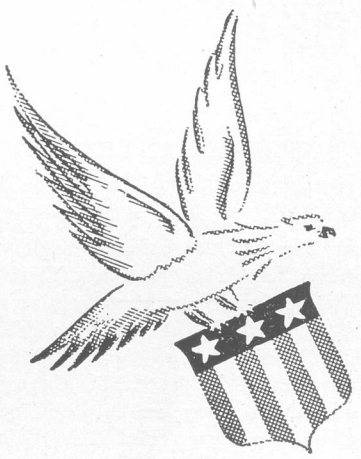
The FIGHTING MEN *of* LOUISIANA



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① JOHN M. BLAISE

First Lieutenant, QMC

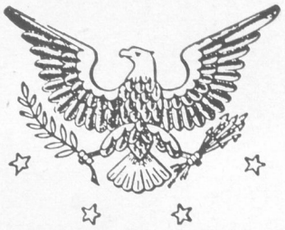
Husband of Juanita G. Blaise of Ponchatoula and father of Rosa Ann Blaise. He was born Oct. 7, 1917, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Blaise, 5220 Arts Street, New Orleans, and attended LSU. Entering the Army on March 19, 1941, at Camp Livingston, he served at Camp Shelby, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, at Normoyle Ordnance Depot, at Camp Campbell, Ky., Camp Pickett, Va., Camp Lee, Va., Camp Reynolds, Pa., and Camp Ellis, Ill. He served with the Air Transport Command, Miami, Fla. Going to Basra, Iraq, on Jan. 31, 1944, he served at Natal, Brazil; Accra, British West Africa; Cairo, Egypt; Basra, Iraq, and in Iran, Russia, France, Belgium, Holland, Syria, Germany, and Czechoslovakia. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Central Europe and the Rhineland. He was honorably released from active duty on Feb. 17, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

② EMIEL HAROLD BERNER

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Ethel Barthalomeu Berner of Ponchatoula. He was born July 1, 1926, and attended Ponchatoula High School. Entering the Naval Reserve on April 4, 1944, at New Orleans, he went to the Naval Training Station at San Diego and Landing Craft School. He served with the USS Alchiba AKA 6 and was assigned to Naval Landing Force Equipment Depot, Albany, Calif., and the Replacement Station, San Francisco, Calif. He was also at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Oakland, Calif. Beginning sea duty on Aug. 12, 1944, he served aboard ship and operating landing craft barges. He was in combat in the Liberation of the Philippines and has the Presidential Citation Badge for outstanding performance of duty. He was granted his honorable discharge at Oakland, Calif.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





① JAMES DEVON SANDERS

First Lieutenant, U. S. Marine Corps

He was born May 13, 1921, the son of Mrs. F. M. Sanders, Sr., of Kentwood, La. He attended Southeastern Louisiana College and entered the armed forces in February, 1943.

(N. M. I. A.)

② FRED MONROE SANDERS, JR.

Captain, Army Reserve

Son of Mrs. F. M. Sanders, Sr., was born Nov. 23, 1919. He attended Hinds County Junior College, Raymond, Miss., and entered the armed forces in September, 1941.

(N. M. I. A.)



③ LESTER L. KING

Private, U. S. Army

Husband of Mary Louise King of Hammond, La. He was born on March 4, 1922, and attended Pine Grove High School, Pine Grove, La., and Southeastern Louisiana College at Hammond. He was a grocery clerk prior to entering the service. Inducted Sept. 8, 1942, at New Orleans, he received his basic training and served as regimental supply clerk at Camp Beauregard, La., and Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark. Private King was given a medical discharge at Camp Robinson on June 10, 1943, by reason of Circular 395, War Department, 1942. He is the son of Mr. Frank N. King of Hammond.

④ EDWIN RAY YOUNG

PFC, Medics, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L. Young of Amite. He was born Oct. 9, 1920, and attended Montpelier High School. Inducted into Army of the U. S. Sept. 5, 1942, at New Orleans, he served with the Medical Corps at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., assigned to duty with the 48th General Hospital (medical technician). Embarking for the European Theater on Jan. 1, 1943, he served with the 48th General Hospital in England and France, transferring to the 107th Evacuation Hospital in Germany. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater Ribbon, World War II Victory Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby on Jan. 9, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



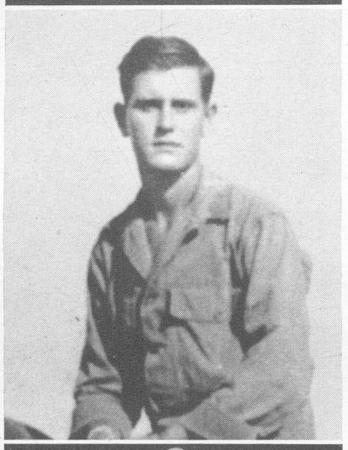
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① Horace G. Causey

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

Husband of Mary E. Causey and father of George G. Causey, 605 South Olive Street, Hammond, La. He was born May 14, 1919, attended Denham Springs High School, and was employed by the Capitol Stores prior to entering the service. He was inducted Jan. 22, 1943, at New Orleans, and received his basic training at Keesler Field, Miss., attended Clerical School at Colorado State College of Education, and had Advanced Training at Kearns Field, Utah. On July 21, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served as clerk-typist in New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Guadalcanal, and Los Negros. Sgt. Causey participated in the campaigns of the Northern Solomons, New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, Southern Philippines, and Luzon. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with five bronze stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Oct. 10, 1945. He is the son of Mrs. Annie Causey of Denham Springs, La.

② Calvin Cornelious Lane

PFC, Army Air Forces

Husband of Mary Evelyn Carter Lane of Kentwood and father of William Guy and Jefferson Davis (Buddie) Lane. He was born Feb. 22, 1905, the son of Rubern Davis Lane and Mary Emma Frisbee Lane of Middleburg, Clay County, Fla. He attended Middleburg and Jacksonville schools and was a machine operator and repairman last with Kramer Service, Kentwood, prior to entering the AAF. He went from Camp Beauregard to Lake Charles Army Air Field and Aloe Field, Victoria, Texas, then to Camp Seymour Johnston, N. C., where he attended the AAF Technical Training School. He had previously served with the 27th Infantry Jan. 19, 1924, to Jan. 18, 1927, discharged as sergeant with excellent character, and for one additional year, discharged as sergeant with excellent character. He served for more than six years and seven months, two years in wartime, and entered the Enlisted Reserve on May 22, 1943, receiving his honorable discharge Nov. 16. 1944.

③ Luther Williams

U. S. Marine Corps

Captured by the enemy when the Japanese seized Wake Island on Dec. 23, 1941, and held a prisoner of war until Sept. 16, 1945, when he was liberated from Hakodate Prison Camp when American troops took over Hokkaido Island, Japan. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Williams of Roseland, Tangipahoa Parish, he was born July 26, 1920, and enlisted in the USMC at New Orleans on Jan. 8, 1940. He went to San Diego, Calif., and served with the First Defense Battalion, operating five-inch artillery guns. He served in the same capacity at Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, on Johnson Island, and in the Marine Defense of Wake Island. He was serving in that capacity when the enemy struck Wake on Dec. 23, 1941, and was taken prisoner in the bitter fighting there. He remained a prisoner of war until released on Hokkaido Island on Sept. 16, 1945. He has the Presidential Unit Citation Badge for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy.

④ Angus O. Ott, Jr.

Tec/4, CE, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Angus O. Ott of Kentwood. He entered the U. S. Army in the Corps of Engineers on Aug. 20, 1943, at New Orleans. Sergeant Ott served in the Corps of Engineers for two years, six months and five days, and took a Topographic Surveying course prior to going overseas where he served in the Pacific area for one year, two months, and 27 days. He was assigned to duty as battalion stenographer, and was in combat in the Pacific in the Campaign for Luzon, Philippine Islands. He had one year, three months and eight days of service in the continental United States, and has the American Theater of Operations Medal. He also has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one bronze Campaign Star, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Campaign Star, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Ribbon. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge on Feb. 24, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Texas.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Constant Cirel Decoteau

② Noah Jean Decoteau

③ Oneil George Decoteau

④ Remy Arsene Decoteau

⑤ Leroy Edward Decoteau

⑥ Daniel P. Thompson, Jr.

⑦ Louis Bueche

⑧ Dan D. Erwin

⑨ Antoin Ballard

⑩ Gussie Warren Coates

⑪ Talbert G. Clark

⑫ Adrian Eugene Clark

⑬ Carter Nickens

⑭ Byron Rushing

⑮ Len B. Nickens

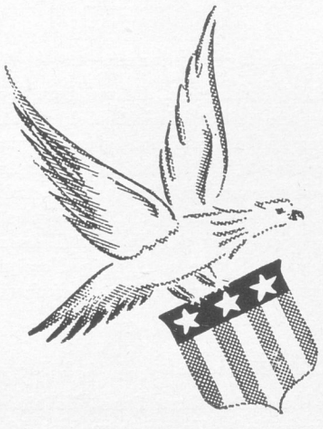
⑯ Alex Allen Sheets

⑰ Ernest Andrew Ferrant

⑱ Eugene Thomas Ferrant

⑲ Francis Alvin Ferrant

⑳ Paul Cornelius Ferrant





① CONSTANT CIREL DECOTEAU,
U. S. Merchant Marines

Served as a seaman with the Merchant Marine for 16 years and was continuing to serve with that branch of the national service. He is the husband of Antonnine Drago Decoteau, Route 2, Hammond, He was born Jan. 27, 1908, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry George Decoteau of Hammond, and attended Dutchtown High School, Ascension Parish, and Ponchatoula High School, Tangipahoa Parish. He entered the United States Merchant Marine in war time at New Orleans in April, 1942. He remained in the Merchant Marine after the cessation of hostilities.

② NOAH JEAN DECOTEAU, Chief Yeoman, USNR

Husband of Ethel Backes Decoteau, 7808 Pearl Street, New Orleans. He was born March 8, 1915, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry George Decoteau of Route 2, Hammond. He attended Dutchtown High School, Ascension Parish, and Ponchatoula High School. He was working with the Office of Engineers, New Orleans, prior to entering military service in the United States Naval Reserve Oct. 27, 1941, at New Orleans. He was continuing to serve with the United States Navy with the rating of chief yeoman following the cessation of hostilities.

③ ONEIL GEORGE DECOTEAU, United States Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry George Decoteau, Route 2, Hammond. He was born Nov. 1, 1920, and is a graduate of Ponchatoula High School and of Louisiana State Normal College at Natchitoches. He entered military service upon completion of his college work, and was inducted into the United States Naval Reserve on July 18, 1942, at New Orleans. He was continuing to serve with the United States Naval Reserve following the cessation of hostilities on the world battlefronts.

④ REMY ARSENE DECOTEAU, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry George Decoteau of Route 2, Hammond. He was born Oct. 6, 1913, and attended Dutchtown High School in Ascension Parish and Ponchatoula High School, Ponchatoula. He was a baker by profession prior to entering the Army of the United States on May 23, 1942, at New Orleans. Sergeant Decoteau served with the Army following the completion of his training and was continuing to serve following the cessation of hostilities.

⑤ LEROY EDWARD DECOTEAU, Army of United States

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry George Decoteau, Route 2, Hammond. He was born Oct. 13, 1924, and was graduated from Ponchatoula High School. He was an employee of Federal Reserve Bank in New Orleans prior to entering the Army of the United States Oct. 25, 1945, at New Orleans. He was continuing to serve with the Army of the United States in peacetime following his training in the continental United States.

⑥ DANIEL P. THOMPSON, JR., Staff Sgt., Air Forces

Husband of Estelle A. Thompson, Hammond. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel P. Thompson of Ponchatoula, he attended Ponchatoula High School and was a sawmill operator prior to entering the Army Air Forces Feb. 10, 1942. He served at Keesler Field, Miss., Barksdale Field (Supply School), Paige Field, Fort Myers, Fla., and Berry Field, Nashville, Tenn. Embarking for Casablanca Nov. 12, 1944, he served at Payne Field, Cairo, Bahrein Island in the Persian Gulf, and Cazesair Base, Casablanca, as supply clerk. He also served at Hattiesburg, Miss., Avon Park Bombing Range, Fla., Charleston AAB, S. C., Bartow AAB, Fla., and Greensboro, N. C. He was discharged Nov. 29, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑦ LOUIS BUECHE, PFC, Infantry, AUS

Husband of Laura Erwin Bueche of Fluker and son of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Bueche of Jarreau, Pointe Coupee Parish. He attended Chenal School and Rougon High School, and was a bartender prior to his induction into the Army of the United States on Aug. 19, 1944, at New Roads. He was assigned to the Army Technical Training and Communication Center at Camp Crowder, Mo., and to Camp Livingston for Infantry training. On March 8, 1945, he went to LeHavre, France, and served on occupation duty at Mulien, Ethville, Schlanbach, Wiesbotom, Lemburg, Frankfurt and Bremerhaven, Germany, assigned to duty as a guard and wire chief. Returning from service with the Army of Occupation, he was granted his honorable discharge at Fort Bragg, N. C., on July 3, 1946.

⑧ DAN D. ERWIN, Tec/Sgt., AAF

Husband of Myrtle L. Erwin of Fluker and son of Mr. and Mrs. Cedric H. Erwin. He was born Nov. 18, 1923, and attended Kentwood High School prior to his induction into the Army Air Forces on May 20, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Amarillo Army Air Field, Texas, basic training and Airplane Mechanics School, then went to Las Vegas Army Air Base, Nevada, for Gunnery School. He served at Drew Field, Tampa, Fla., and Savannah Army Air Base, Ga., assigned to a B-17 aircraft. On Sept. 14, 1944, he went to England with the 306th Bombardment Group, 423rd Bombardment Squadron, as aerial engineer and gunner. He flew thirty combat missions over targets in Germany and surrounding countries with the Eighth Air Force and has the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters and the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars. He was honorably discharged at Ellington Field, Houston, Texas, on Oct. 22, 1945.

⑨ ANTOIN BALLARD, Sergeant, MC, AUS

Husband of Ella Elizabeth Ballard of Hammond and father of DeWayne Antoin Ballard and a foster daughter, Estella Coates. He was born July 11, 1905, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ivy Odom Ballard, Route 1, Hammond, and attended Maurepas School. He was engaged in farming prior to entering the Army of the United States in the Medical Department on Oct. 8, 1942, at New Orleans. Sergeant Ballard served as supply clerk at Camp Barkeley, Texas, and at Brooke General and Convalescent Hospital, San Antonio, Texas. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on August 7, 1945.

⑩ GUSSIE WARREN COATES, Anti-Aircraft Artillery

Husband of Susie Estelle Coates, Route 1, Hammond, and father of Effie Lee Coates. He was born February 5, 1924, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gussie Luther Coates of Hammond, and attended Ponchatoula School. He was engaged in farming prior to entering the Army at New Orleans on Nov. 17, 1943. He went to Camp Callan, Calif., as a basic trainee and to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., as a rifleman. He served with the Military Police at Camp San Luis Obispo and went to Fort Francis E. Warren, Wyo., for Quartermaster School. From Camp Anza he embarked July 17, 1945, for the Philippine Islands where he served as an anti-aircraft gunner on the Island of Leyte. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and re-enlisted for one year on Nov. 15, 1945, to serve with the Army of Occupation.

⑪ TALBERT G. CLARK, Tec/Sgt., Ordnance

Husband of Hester B. Clark of Ponchatoula. He was born Sept. 24, 1913, and attended Ravevenben (Ark.) High School, working as a heavy equipment operator and air conditioning expert prior to his induction into the Army March 12, 1942, at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind. He served in ordnance at Fort Warren, Wyo., Columbia Army Air Base, S. C., MacDill Field, Tampa, Fla., and Venice Army Air Base, Venice, Fla. He embarked for the European Theater Aug. 11, 1943, and served in England, France and Belgium, assigned to duty as mechanics shop foreman. He was honorably discharged at Rockford, Ill., Dec. 30, 1946.

⑫ ADRIAN EUGENE CLARK, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Bernice Marie Clark, 963 Grant Street, Vallejo, Calif., and son of Mrs. Eunice Hogg Clark. He was born Sept. 16, 1923,

and attended Ponchatoula High School. He was pasteurizer for a creamery prior to induction into the United States Navy Oct. 26, 1942. He served at Armed Guard Center Pacific as armed guard gunner aboard the SS Lew Wallace, the SS Katherine L. Bates, the SS John M. Clayton and the SS Toloa. He served with the U. S. Fleet on board the USS J. Douglas Blackwood DE 219. Embarking for sea duty Jan. 7, 1943, he served in the South and North Pacific, North Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Red Sea, Mediterranean area, Gulf of Mexico, Gulf of Aden and Persian Gulf and has the Philippine Liberation, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater, Asiatic-Pacific Theater and American Theater Ribbons. He was discharged Oct. 21, 1945, at Camp Shoemaker.

⑬ CARTER NICKENS, Seaman 1/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Nickens of Route 1, Hammond. He was born April 12, 1927, and attended Ponchatoula High Schol. He was engaged in farming prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve on May 23, 1945, at New Orleans. From the Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., he went to Shoemaker and Treasure Island, Calif., and was assigned to duty on the USS Brevard AF 164, the USS Ard C-2, the USS Creon 11, and the USS ATR 62. He embarked for the Pacific area Dec. 11, 1945, and served on Okinawa, at Shanghai, China, at Midway, Guam and Pearl Harbor. Seaman First Class Nickens was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on June 7, 1946. He has World War II Victory Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon and a Navy Commendation by Admiral Cooke.

⑭ BYRON RUSHING, Tec/5, Air Forces

Husband of Lois Rushing, Route 1, Hammond, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Rushing of Hammond. He was born in 1923 and entered the Army Air Forces on Jan. 22, 1943. After training in the continental United States he went to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations where he served in the Campaigns of the Eastern Mandates and the Western Pacific. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars and was granted his honorable discharge on Jan. 14, 1946, at the Army Separation Center at Camp Fannin, Texas.

⑮ LEN B. NICKENS, Tec/5, FA, AUS

Husband of Myrtle Nickens and father of Helen Marie Nickens. He was born May 30, 1920, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Nickens and attended Hammond High School. He was engaged in farming at the time of his induction into the Army Oct. 11, 1940, and served with the Field Artillery at Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Jackson, S. C., Fort Sill, Okla., Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Camp Forrest, Tenn. On Dec. 5, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater and served in North Ireland, going into combat in France where he fought in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, and the Rhineland. He has the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in the performance of duty in action against the enemy, the American Defense Service and American Theater Ribbons and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars. He was discharged June 15, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑯ ALEX ALLEN SHEETS, AR 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex M. Sheets of Independence. He was born Feb. 26, 1926, and attended Albany High School. He enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve on May 24, 1944, at New Orleans and was assigned to Camp Wallace, Galveston, Texas, for boot training. On Aug. 21, 1944, he embarked for the North Atlantic area and served at the Naval Air Station, Newfoundland, Naval Air Field, Navy 103, as radio operator, having the rating of Aviation Radioman Third Class. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and World War II Victory Ribbon. He was discharged at New Orleans on May 17, 1946.

⑰ ERNEST ANDREW FERRANT, SC 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Elsie Perrin Ferrant of Route 1, Ponchatoula. He was born Aug. 17, 1925, and attended Ponchatoula School. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on Dec. 28, 1942, he served at the Naval Air Station in San Diego, Calif., at Port Hueneme, at Landing Craft Repair Base No. 2, at the U. S. Naval CD and E Base, Navy No. 900, with Command Amphibious Demolitions, Amphibious Force, Pacific Fleet, assigned to duty in Underwater Demolition Teams, and at Fort Pierce, Fla. He served with the USS Jenkins (DD 447) with which he spent 19 months overseas in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations and has that Ribbon, the American Theater Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon.

⑱ EUGENE THOMAS FERRANT, Chief Watertender, U. S. Coast Guard

He was born April 20, 1923, and was engaged in farming and shipyard work prior to entering the U. S. Coast Guard Oct. 1, 1942. He served with the Coast Guard at Camp Harahan, La., at Galveston, Texas, at Camp 609, Freeport, Texas, and the U. S. Navy Yard at Norfolk, Va. He was assigned to the USS Butte and the USS Cobb in anti-submarine warfare and the USS Worcester and USS Gladwynne PF 62 on convoy duty and combat patrol. Embarking Nov. 5, 1943, for the European Theater, he served at Oran, Casablanca, and Tunis, Africa. He took part in convoys, weather and anti-submarine patrols at LeHavre, France, Salerno, Italy and Naples. He went to the Pacific area and served in the Hawaiian Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Gilberts, the Carolines, the Marianas, at Midway, Wake, Howland and Baker Islands in the same duties plus air-sea rescue patrol and transporting enemy prisoners of war. He has the Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal and a Commendation. Discharged April 26, 1946.

⑲ FRANCIS ALVIN FERRANT, PFC, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mrs. Elsie Perrin Ferrant, he was born Feb. 9, 1918, and attended Ponchatoula School. He was engaged in farming prior to his induction into the Army June 6, 1942. He served with the Infantry at Camp Pickett, Va., Camp Blanding, Fla., and Camp Forrest, Tenn. He served at the Desert Training Center, Calif., and at Camp Phillips, Kan., embarking with Company "K," 315th Infantry Regiment, from New York for the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations on April 9, 1944. He went to England for combat staging and training. He took part in the Invasion of Normandy and fought in the great battles at Caen and Montgarden. This gallant infantryman was killed in action July 9, 1944, at Montgarden in Normandy. He had the Good Conduct Medal with Star, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the American Theater Ribbon, the European Theater Ribbon with Bronze Campaign Star, and the Purple Heart with four Oak Leaf Clusters, for wounds received at different times in the Campaign of Normandy.

⑳ PAUL CORNELIUS FERRANT, Staff Sgt., Air Forces

Son of Mrs. Elsie Perrin Ferrant, he was born Sept. 7, 1922, and attended Ponchatoula High School. He was farming prior to entering the AAF Aug. 12, 1942. Sergeant Ferrant served at Keesler Field, Miss., Harlingen Army Air Field, Texas, Salt Lake City Army Air Base, Utah, the Desert Training Center in California, Morris Field, N. C., Will Rogers Field, Okla., and Tampa, Fla. He was also assigned to duty at Florence Army Air Base, S. C., at Charlotte, N. C., in New York City, Miami, Fla., and Victoria, Texas, at Greenville Army Air Base and Camp Shelby, Miss. On Feb. 5, 1944, Staff Sergeant Ferrant went to the European Theater and served in the Air Offensive over Europe as a gunner on an A-26 (Invader) and A-20 (Havoc), the Campaigns of Northern France and the Rhineland. He has the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, American Theater Ribbon, European Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, Good Conduct Medal and the Purple Heart for wounds received June 13, 1944, at Rennes, France.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Ronald Mark Evans

First Lieutenant, U. S. Army Air Force

Husband of Vera V. Evans of Fluker, La. He was born March 6, 1921, and attended Independence High School, LSU, and North Carolina State College. Inducted Oct. 17, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, he received his basic training at Boca Raton, Fla.; attended Airplane Engineering Officer School, Stuttgart Army Air Base, Ark.; served as Photo Interpretation Officer at Will Rogers Field, Okla., and embarked for overseas on Sept. 3, 1945, from the Army Air Field, Greensboro, N. C. Lieut. Evans served with the 7th Photo Tech. Squadron in Calcutta, India, as Photo Interpretation Officer, and also Information and Education Officer. He has the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., in June, 1946. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Darling Mark Evans, Box 134, Independence, La.

② Maurice Denvil Robinson

PFC, Infantry, Army

Husband of Georgia Ann Robinson, Route 1, Springfield, and father of Katherine Ann and Maurice Robinson, Jr. He was born April 1, 1916, and is the son of Mr. Thomas Robinson and Mrs. C. G. Tate. He attended Albany and Hammond High Schools and was engaged in farming prior to entering the Army Dec. 22, 1943, at New Orleans. He served at Camp Beauregard, Camp Blanding, Fla., Fort George G. Meade, Md., and Camp Kilmer, N. J., embarkation. On July 14, 1944, he departed for the British Isles and served in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany as an infantry rifleman with the 30th Division, in combat in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France and the Rhineland. He has the European Theater Ribbon with three bronze Campaign Stars, the American Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct and Victory Medals, the Combat Infantry Badge, and Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster for wounds received Sept. 8 and Oct. 11, 1944. Hospitalized for 13 months after wounds last received in Germany, he was honorably discharged (disability) at O'Reilly General Hospital, Springfield, Mo.

③ Harvey Aldridge Temple, Jr.

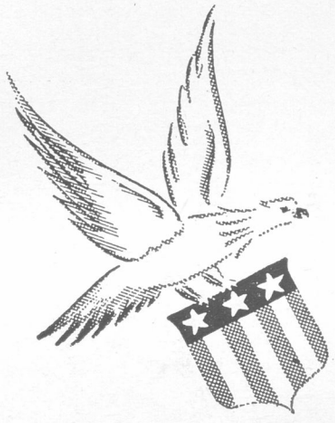
Private First Class, AUS

Husband of Margaret Frances Temple of Hammond and father of Donald Aldridge and Margaret Diane Temple. He was born Jan. 6, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Aldridge Temple of Hammond. He attended Covington and Lyons High Schools and was an electric arc welder prior to entering the Army Dec. 22, 1944, at New Orleans. From Camp Chaffee, Ark., he went to Camp Hood, Texas, Infantry Replacement Training Center, then to Fort George Meade, Md., Camp Adair, Ore., and Camp Stoneman, Calif., port of embarkation. On Aug. 20, 1945, he embarked for Luzon in the Philippine Islands where he was assigned to the Sixth Replacement Depot as first machine gunner with Company L, 63rd Infantry Regiment, Sixth Division. From Luzon he went to Korea with the Army of Occupation, and served on guard duty. He has the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon. He was honorably discharged on his return to the States at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Feb. 17, 1946.

④ Thomas James Hood

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Marie Kent Hood of Fluker and son of Arthur Etheridge and Bessie Burris Hood of Amite. He was born Dec. 28, 1921, and was graduated from Amite High School. He attended Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, Va., and received his B. A. degree from Tulane University at New Orleans. He was manager of the Hood Motor Company prior to entering the Army in the 25th Mechanized Reconnaissance Troop on May 20, 1943. He served at Camp Beauregard and at Camp Roberts, Fort Ord, Fort McDowell, and Camp Stoneman, Calif., supervising and directing clerks in the supply room, making inventories and requisitioning supplies, and training as a Heavy Mortar Crewman. On Jan. 4, 1944, he embarked for New Zealand and served also in New Caledonia, Luzon, and Honshu, Japan, as a Heavy Mortar Crewman, Squad Leader, and Radio Operator, serving as Light Weapons and Supply Non-Commissioned Officer. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one bronze Campaign Star and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star, the Good Conduct Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge. He was discharged under the demobilization system Jan. 31, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Texas.





① WILLIAM S. CHAUCER

Staff Sergeant, Army

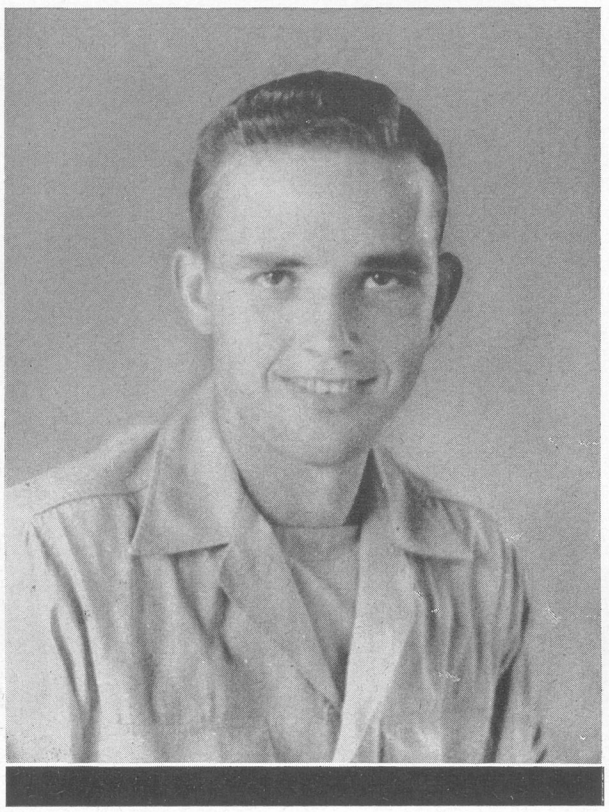
Son of Mrs. Julia Frank Chaucer, Route 1, Hammond. He was born Dec. 29, 1920, and attended Sharpsville, Penn., and Albany, La., High Schools, entering the Army March 2, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Camp Claiborne, at Fort Bragg, N. C., and at Fort Benning, Ga. From Dec. 2, 1942, until his discharge, Staff Sgt. Chaucer fought with the famed 82nd Airborne Division as a paratrooper. He went to North Africa April 29, 1943, and served also in Sicily, Italy, England, France, Scotland, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, the Rhineland, the Ardennes, and Central Europe, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with six bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Ribbon, and the Bronze Indian Arrowhead for airborne invasion. Arriving in the United States on his return from France on Sept. 15, 1945, he was granted his honorable discharge at the Separation Center at Camp Shelby on Sept. 24, 1945.



② JOHN CHAUCER

PFC, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Chaucer, Route 1, Hammond. He was born Jan. 7, 1912, and attended schools in Sharpsville, Pa. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to entering the Army September 23, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He served there, at Camp Hulen, Texas, at Camp Atterbury, Ind., and at Nashville, Tenn. PFC Chaucer was killed in an accident at Nashville, Tenn., on July 29, 1943. A military funeral was conducted at St. Margaret's Catholic Church, Albany, La. PFC Chaucer had been in military service for slightly less than one year at the time of his death in an accident at Nashville.



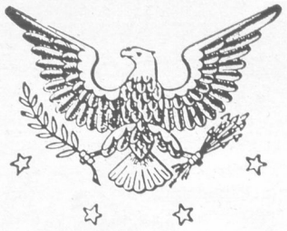


Lawrence Leslie Watts

Corporal, CE, Army

Husband of Ione Alice Watts of Ponchatoula and son of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Watts of Ponchatoula. He was born Jan. 30, 1923, and attended Ward Line School and Ponchatoula High School. He was with Louisiana Cypress Lumber Company and the Louisiana State Department of Agriculture prior to entering the Army in the Corps of Engineers on Dec. 28, 1942, at New Orleans. From Camp Beauregard he went to Camp Phillips, Kan., Camp Forrest, Tenn., and Camp Stoneman, Calif., embarking Jan. 15, 1943, for Milne Bay, New Guinea. He served on Goodenough Island, at Ora Bay, Camp Cretin, Finschafen, Hollandia, Leyte and Luzon. He was in combat at Hollandia in Dutch New Guinea and at Luzon and Leyte in the Philippine Islands. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, World War II Victory Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Jan. 24, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Charles Martin Kron

② William F. Morgan

③ Edward E. Richardson

④ Cecil S. Richardson

⑤ John W. Brescher

⑥ Ray P. Brescher

⑦ Sylvan V. Brescher

⑧ Fred Leon Brescher

⑨ Louis Peter Eleser, Jr.

⑩ Cary S. Eleser

⑪ Richard John Eleser

⑫ Marion Eugene Thompson

⑬ Elvin B. Patterson

⑭ Kenneth T. Patterson

⑮ Ben L. Womack

⑯ John Lincoln DeVillier

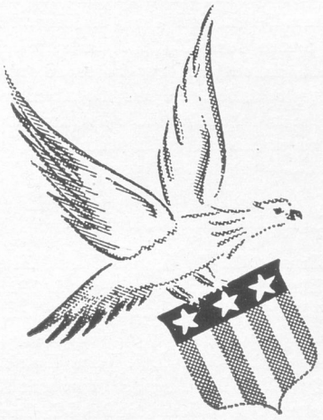
⑰ Beecher Vernia Gatlin

⑱ Roy J. Hall

⑲ James M. Pierce

⑳ Richard Harmon Hyde





① CHARLES MARTIN KRON, Staff Sgt., Air Forces

Husband of Neville Katrina Richardson, Route 1, Hammond, and father of Glenda Rae Kron and Charlene Joyce Kron. He is the son of James Ambrose and Rose Wagner Kron, 710 North West Street, Pittsburgh, Pa., and attended Turtle Creek High School, Turtle Creek, Pa. Entering the Army Air Forces Aug. 22, 1941, at Pittsburgh, he was assigned to duty with the Army Air Forces Technical Training School at Keesler Field, Miss., the Advanced Army Flying School at Lubbock, Texas, the Advanced Army Glider School at Lubbock, the Advanced Army Flying School at Pampa, Texas, and the Advanced Army Field at Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill. Sergeant Kron was discharged at Chanute Field, Ill., on Oct. 13, 1946.

② WILLIAM F. MORGAN, MM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin L. Morgan, Route 1, Hammond. He attended Springfield High School and was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to his induction into the Naval Reserve at New Orleans on May 23, 1944. Machinist's Mate Morgan went to Camp Wallace, Texas, for recruit training and to Camp Parks, Calif., where he served until embarking for sea duty Sept. 1, 1944, going to Adak, Alaska. He served at the Naval Base on Adak operating a truck throughout his period of overseas duty. He has the American Theater and Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbons. Returning to the States, he was discharged at New Orleans on Feb. 22, 1946.

③ EDWARD E. RICHARDSON, Sergeant, Air Forces

Husband of Inez Magell Richardson, Route 1, Hammond, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam J. Richardson, Route 1, Hammond. He attended Springfield High School and was a farmer by occupation prior to his induction into the Army Air Forces on June 18, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Buckley Field, Col., going overseas May 13, 1944, to the Aleutian Islands. He was assigned to duty at Anchorage, Alaska, as non-commissioned officer in charge of the Air Transport Command air transport office. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal, and was discharged at Camp Shelby on March 8, 1946.

④ CECIL S. RICHARDSON, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Lillian Inez Robinson Richardson, Hammond, and father of Cecil Samuel Richardson, Jr., and Tommy Wayne Richardson. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. Richardson, Route 1, Hammond, and attended Springfield High School. He was a farmer by occupation prior to his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on May 23, 1944, at New Orleans. Seaman First Class Richardson served at Camp Wallace, Texas, the Naval Operating Base at Norfolk, Va., Quonset Point, R. I., with CASU 22, Fleet Post Office, New York, and at the Naval Air Station at Norfolk, Va. He was discharged on Feb. 25, 1946, at Camp Shelton, Va.

⑤ JOHN W. BRESCHER, Corporal, CE, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Estell Brescher of Ponchatoula and son of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Brescher of Ponchatoula. He was born June 8, 1923, and attended Ponchatoula High School. He was engaged in farming prior to his induction into the Army on Jan. 22, 1943. He trained with an engineer (aviation) battalion at March Field, Calif., going to the Pacific area Dec. 1, 1943. He fought as a heavy machine gunner (605) and rifle sharpshooter in the Eastern Mandates, the Western Pacific and the Ryukyus Islands (Okinawa) having the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. Returning to the States, he was discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas.

⑥ RAY P. BRESCHER, PFC, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Brescher of Ponchatoula. He was born Aug. 18, 1918, and attended Ponchatoula High School. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to his induction into the Army on Feb. 11, 1942, when he went to Fort Jackson, S. C., and Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla., assigned to duty as a rifleman and a crewman on a tank destroyer with the Infantry. He embarked for the European Theater of Operations Oct. 8, 1943, returning to the States Nov. 5, 1945. Private First Class Brescher served in England, Ireland, France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and Germany, and fought in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the European Theater Ribbon with five Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation and the Good Conduct Medal, and was discharged Nov. 25, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑦ SYLVAN V. BRESCHER, Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Brescher, Route 1, Ponchatoula. He was born March 29, 1917, and attended Ponchatoula High School. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to his induction into the Army of the United States on June 6, 1941, at Camp Livingston. He served for three months with the Infantry, nine months with the Military Police, and three years and five months with the Medical Corps, stationed at Camp Shelby, Miss., Camp Wolters, Texas, Fort Sill, Okla., Camp Gruber, Okla., Camp Barkeley, Texas, and Camp Kilmer, N. J., going to the European Theater as a Medical Supply Sergeant Oct. 11, 1944. He served at Cherbourg, Arles, Marseilles and LaHaye, France, with the Medical Corps, and has the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon and American Defense Service Medal and was discharged Nov. 8, 1945.

⑧ FRED LEON BRESCHER, PFC, Infantry, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Rose Brescher, Route 1, Ponchatoula, and father of Fred Leon Brescher, Jr. He was born Feb. 18, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Brescher of Ponchatoula, and attended Ponchatoula High School. Entering the Army in the Infantry July 10, 1942, at New Orleans, he served at Camp Beauregard, Camp Carson, Col., Camp Roberts, Calif., Fort Benning, Ga., Camp Kilmer, N. J., assigned to duty as assistant squad leader and also as company barber. On Jan. 26, 1945, he embarked for the European Theater where he served in Austria, Germany and France, and was in combat in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with two Stars, Good Conduct Ribbon and World War II Victory Medal, and was discharged Feb. 5, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

⑨ LOUIS PETER ELESER, JR., Cpl., U. S. Marine Corps

Husband of Golda Nell Eleser and son of Louis Peter and Susie Lea Eleser. He attended St. Joseph's and Ponchatoula High School, entering the Marine Corps June 5, 1941, at New Orleans. He served at the U. S. Marine Corps Base, San Diego, Camp Elliott and Camp Linda Vista, Calif. (infantry tactics instructor). He served on guard duty and as instructor at the Naval Ammunition Depot, New Orleans, NAS at Richmond, Fla., and Camp LeJeune, N. C. Embarking for American Samoa June 17, 1942, he served in British Samoa in Ordnance and on outpost duty in Savaii, returning to American Samoa for hospitalization. He has the American Defense Service Ribbon, American and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbons, and was discharged after hospitalization at Klamath Falls, Ore., Oct. 30, 1945.

⑩ CARY S. ELESER, Radioman 2/C, U. S. N.

Husband of Dolores Eleser, 2932 Cambronne Street, New Orleans, and father of Nancy Eleser. He was born Aug. 5, 1924, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Peter Eleser of Ponchatoula and attended St. Joseph's and Ponchatoula High School. Entering the Naval Reserve May 14, 1943, he served at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, at Radio School in Los Angeles (merchant fleet training), Armed Guard Center, New Orleans, and AGC, Brooklyn. He

served at NOB, Norfolk, Va., Casco Bay, Portland, Maine, USNTS, Noroton Heights, Conn., Oceanside, San Bruno, and Treasure Island, Calif., advanced communications training. He embarked Jan. 12, 1944, for Southampton and Sept. 4, 1945, for Eniwetok, and served as radio operator aboard the SS David B. Johnson, the USS Charger, at Quonset Point on Oahu, T. H., and with the USS Denebola. He was discharged at New Orleans Dec. 19, 1945.

⑪ RICHARD JOHN ELESER, Army of United States

Husband of Wilma Lee Eleser of Ponchatoula. He was born May 23, 1926, the son of Louis Peter and Susie Lea Eleser. He has a son, Richard John Eleser, Jr. A graduate of Ponchatoula High School, he was engaged in farming prior to his induction into the Army at New Orleans on July 27, 1945. He served at Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark., Infantry Replacement Training Center, operating a switchboard on a firing range.

⑫ MARION EUGENE THOMPSON, Cpl., Infantry, Army

Husband of Clara Canova Thompson, 916 Erato Street, New Orleans, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Lem Thompson, Route 1, Hammond. He was born March 5, 1921, and attended Gatlin School. He was engaged in farming prior to entering the Army July 9, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, from which he went to Camp Carson, Col., and Camp Butner, N. C., assigned to duty as a mess cook. From Camp Myles Standish, Mass., he embarked for LeHavre, France. He fought in Europe in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Germany and has the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He was discharged at Camp Shelby Feb. 7, 1946.

⑬ ELVIN B. PATTERSON, U. S. Maritime Service

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin B. Patterson, Route 1, Box 37, Hammond, La. He was born Nov. 18, 1925, and is a graduate of Springfield High School. Prior to his service in the Merchant Marine he worked as a farmer. He entered service Jan. 5, 1944, and was assigned to the USAT Jeff Davis. His service on the seas includes duty in all the theaters of war. His rank of seaman was held at this writing, with further service in the offing. The first three months of duty aboard ship were spent in the Central America zone with Panama as base for operations.

⑭ KENNETH T. PATTERSON, T/5, Military Police

Husband of Florence W. and father of Florence Marie, Springfield, La. He was born May 2, 1921, son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin B. Patterson, Sr., and attended Springfield High School. He had farming as an occupation prior to entering the service. He was inducted into the service Aug. 3, 1942, at New Orleans, and was assigned to Camp Livingston, La., for basic training. His duties were confined to service in this country and included such cities as Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Richmond, and camp duty at Camp Pickett, Va. He was honorably separated from the service Oct. 29, 1945, at Camp Pickett, Va.

⑮ BEN L. WOMACK, PFC, Ordnance, AUS

Husband of Ada Womack, Hammond, and father of Ben L. Womack, Jr., and Peter Robert Womack. He was born Feb. 8, 1920, and entered the Army of the United States on Nov. 6, 1941, at Camp Livingston. He served in ordnance at Fort Bragg, N. C., and Fort Dix, N. J. On Dec. 8, 1942, he embarked for the European Theater, going to England assigned to Base Depot duty. He went into combat in Belgium, France, and Germany, serving in Ordnance. He was in action in the campaign of the Rhineland and has the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with one bronze Campaign Star, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Ribbon, and received his discharge at Camp Shelby on July 29, 1945, with more than one year and one month of continental service and two years, seven months, and 18 days of foreign service.

⑯ JOHN LINCOLN DeVILLIER, 1st Lt., Infantry

Husband of Veneta Maud Varnado, Route 2, Amite, La. He was born Jan. 20, 1916, son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam Cleveland Devillier, Route 1, Port Barre, La., and attended Port Barre High School. He entered service June 7, 1941, and took early training at Camp Beauregard, La. He attended OCS in the Armored Force school at Fort Knox, Ky., and later joined the Seventh Armored Division at Camp Polk, La. With desert training behind him he drew an assignment at Fort Benning, Ga., prior to leaving for overseas. He departed for Europe Feb. 13, 1944, and later saw duty in England, France, Belgium, and Germany. His duties were those of tank platoon leader. Lt. DeVillier was wounded in action at Schevenhutte, Germany, for which he wears the Purple Heart. Other decorations include the Silver Star, Invasion Arrowhead, and Presidential Unit Citation. These were earned in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, and Rhineland.

⑰ BEECHER VERNIA GATLIN, PFC, Transportation Corps

Husband of Rosie Amy Gatlin, Route 1, Hammond, and father of Ruth Bernadine Gatlin. He was born April 15, 1919, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Green Beecher Gatlin of Hammond. He attended Gatlin School and was engaged in farming prior to his induction into the Army June 8, 1942, at Camp Livingston. He served with the Army Transportation Corps at Camp Beauregard, Camp Wheeler, Ga., Fort Bragg, N. C., Fort George G. Meade, Md., Fort Pierce, Fla., Camp Pickett, Va., Camp Myles Standish, Mass., Camp Edwards, Mass., and Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla.

⑱ ROY J. HALL, Cpl., AAA, AUS

Husband of Annie Doris Jackson Hall of Hammond and son of Mrs. Bessie Richmond of Magnolia, Miss. He was born Sept. 15, 1921, and attended Magnolia High School. He was with Magnolia Textile Mill prior to his induction into the Anti-Aircraft Artillery Dec. 29, 1942, at Camp Shelby. He served with an Automatic Weapons Company at Fort Eustis, Va., and embarked for Hawaii May 9, 1943, going into action in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations on Tarawa and Makin Islands as a machine gunner and truck operator. He was discharged Nov. 20, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑲ JAMES M. PIERCE, RM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Pierce of Kentwood. He was born June 7, 1926, and attended Kentwood High School and LSU. Entering the Naval Reserve Jan. 27, 1944, at New Orleans, he served at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, the Navy Training School, Los Angeles, the Recommissioning Training Center, San Francisco, and was assigned to duty with the USS Willard Keith DD 775. He served overseas for nine months, embarking April 16, 1945, for the Philippine Islands, Okinawa, China, and Japan. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Okinawa and the East China Sea and served in the Occupation of the Home Islands of Japan.

⑳ RICHARD HARMON HYDE, BM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Delcie Mae Brown Hyde of Route 2, Kentwood, and son of Mr. and Mrs. John Fletcher Hyde. He was born May 18, 1921, and attended Chesbrough High School, Tangipahoa Parish, prior to entering the U. S. Naval Reserve on March 2, 1940, at Chesbrough. Boatswain's Mate First Class Hyde served with the USS Erie, the USS New York, the USS Burden R. Hastings DE 19, and at the Receiving Station, New York. He was stationed at the Submarine Chaser Training Center, Miami; NYD, Mare Island, Calif.; the U. S. Naval Repair Base, Algiers, New Orleans, and the Naval Base at Norfolk, Va. He went to the Pacific area in October, 1945, where he served in four major naval campaigns. He has the American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with four bronze Campaign Stars, American Defense Service Ribbon with one star, Good Conduct Medal, and a Naval Letter of Commendation for outstanding performance of duty.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Louis M. Hutchinson

Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Ella Louise Hutchinson, Route 1, Hammond, and father of Edward L. Hutchinson. He was born Nov. 7, 1915, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Spencer Hutchinson of Hammond. He attended Springfield High School. Entering the Army of the United States Feb. 10, 1944, at Alexandria, he was assigned to Camp Swift, Texas, transferring to Camp Van Dorn, Miss. After three months of training with the Infantry he transferred to the Corps of Engineers with the 263rd Engineer Regiment. Embarking for overseas duty on Jan. 6, 1945, he served in France, Germany and Austria. He was stationed in Nancy, France, and served in Hackenheim and Manheim. He was in the Rhine and Danube River assault crossings and was stationed at Suezfeld, Rottingen, Landa, Weimheim, all in Germany, and in Grieskirchen, Austria, where he continued to serve with the Army of Occupation assigned to duty with the 24th Cavalry. He served in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Germany and has the Bronze Star. He was continuing to serve in Austria with the Cavalry after the cessation of hostilities in Europe. In combat he served with the Corps of Engineers and on guard and security duty.

② Arthur Carter Harvell

U. S. Army

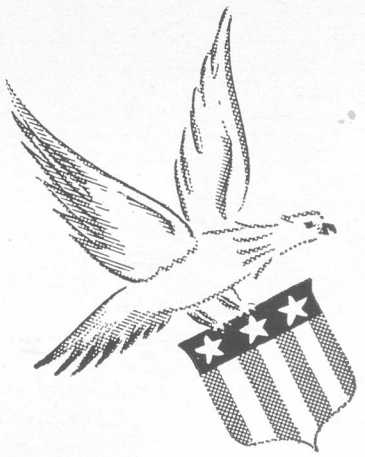
Husband of Dorothy Forshag Harvell of Amite, La., he was born on March 16, 1917, and attended Hammond High School, LSU, and Southeastern La. College at Hammond. Inducted into the Infantry on Dec. 30, 1942, at Camp Shelby, Miss., he was assigned to the duty of training new recruits at Camp Croft, S. C. In July, 1944, he embarked for the European Theatre of Operations and was assigned to duty in Italy. He was killed in action in Italy; it is not known on what date, in what campaign, or where. The Purple Heart was awarded on Nov. 22, 1944. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest C. Harvell of Kentwood, La.

③ Houston H. Wax

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Wax of Ponchatoula, La. He received his education at the public schools in Ponchatoula and enlisted in the armed forces July 23, 1923. In Sept., 1926, he was given an honorable discharge. He re-enlisted in the Army Dec. 6, 1940. This gallant soldier gave his life in the service of his country.

(N. M. I. A.)



④ Louis Rudolph Wagner

Army of the United States

Husband of Merva Landry Wagner of Ponchatoula and father of Louis Rudolph Wagner, Jr., and Merlin Joseph Wagner. He was born May 17, 1917, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Bernard Wagner of Ponchatoula, and attended Ponchatoula High School. He was engaged in construction work prior to entering the Army of the United States on April 26, 1945, at New Orleans. He was assigned to duty at the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Fort Lewis, Wash., and served as a cadreman in training new units until granted his medical discharge on Oct. 3, 1945, at Fort Lewis, Wash.

① Malcolm H. Mitchell

T 4/G, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm M. Mitchell of Bogalusa, La., was born May 21, 1919. After attending school in Bogalusa, La., he was employed in carpenter construction work before being inducted on March 20, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, La. He was assigned to the Army and upon completion of his training he embarked for overseas on Feb. 11, 1944, and was given duty assignments in England, France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany. He saw action in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe and holds the Good Conduct Medal and the Meritorious Unit Award. T 4/G Mitchell served his country loyally for more than three years and on Oct. 26, 1945, received his discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss.



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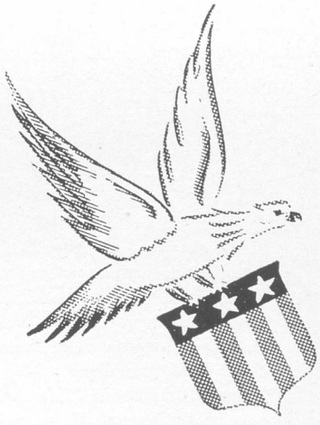
② Myrant D. Mitchell

U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Mitchell of Bogalusa, La., he was born June 24, 1921. He is the husband of Wilma S. Mitchell also of Bogalusa. Entering the service July 14, 1942, Mitchell was assigned to Camp Barkeley, Texas, for training. He departed Jan. 17, 1944, for overseas where he participated in the bitter fighting of Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. Mitchell holds the Bronze Star, European Theater Ribbon with Meritorious unit award, the Victory Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. He is still serving with the U. S. Army.



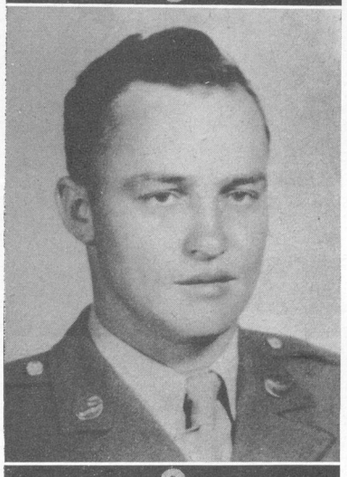
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③ Rayford M. Mitchell

Private, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Mack Mitchell of Bogalusa, La., he was born Oct. 3, 1923, and entered the service Oct. 24, 1942. Mitchell was assigned to Camp Polk, La., later being sent to Camp Barkeley, Texas, for training. He departed Aug. 8, 1944, for Pearl Harbor and was serving on Saipan when wounded. He was then sent to 147 General Hospital in Hawaii. Mitchell was discharged Oct. 10, 1945.



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Doyle Clayton Magouirk

Chief Signalman, U. S. N. R.

Husband of Gertrude Smith Magouirk and son of John Carter Magouirk of Bogalusa, La., was born May 22, 1920. He attended Bogalusa High School and prior to entering the service was employed by Gaylord Container Corporation. On Feb. 4, 1942, he was inducted into the service at New Orleans, La. From there he was sent to the Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., where he was later assigned to a ship. He was also stationed at Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Wash., and San Francisco, Calif. He departed for overseas on Sept. 4, 1943, and served on the Gilbert Islands, Guadalcanal, Marshall Islands, Caroline Islands, Philippine Islands, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He participated in 14 major engagements in the Pacific and has the Good Conduct Medal. After more than three years of unselfish service, he was honorably discharged Oct. 1, 1945.

Gertrude Smith Magouirk

Lieutenant, Army Nurses Corps

Daughter of Fleet Eugene Smith of Bogalusa, La. She was born April 8, 1924, and attended the Mt. Hermon High School and the Elizabeth Sullivan Memorial Training School of Nurses in Bogalusa, La. March 31, 1944, she entered the Armed Forces at San Antonio, Texas, later being stationed at the Brooke General Hospital, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. She is the wife of Doyle Clayton Magouirk of Bogalusa.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Virgil Ray Bennett

Sergeant, U. S. Army

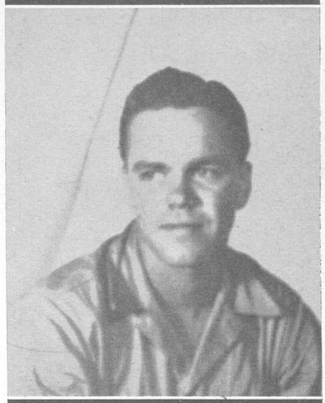
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Bennett of Tylertown, Miss., and husband of Avis White Bennett of Kokomo, Miss., he was born Feb. 7, 1916. He attended school at Tylertown, Miss. Entering the service June 5, 1939, Bennett was assigned to Ft. Benning, Ga., later being sent to Ft. Jackson, S. C., and Ft. Sill, Okla. He joined the Army Air Forces in Dec., 1941, and attended radio school at Harlingen, Texas. He was then assigned to Pueblo Army Air Base, Colo., as a radio operator on a B-24. In Aug., 1943, Sgt. Bennett was transferred to Davis-Monthan Field at Tucson, Ariz., and was killed in a plane crash Oct. 4, 1943. He was the father of Virgil Ray Bennett, Jr.



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② Morris Albert Gilmore

Tec/5, CAC (AAA), AUS

Son of Van Edward and Sabra Havens Gilmore, Lake Charles, and husband of Jean Iwan Gilmore, Marx Apartments, Bogalusa. Born June 13, 1912, he attended Lake Charles High School and was a salesman for Auto-Lec Stores, Inc., at Lake Charles prior to his induction in the Army of the United States at New Orleans, Dec. 5, 1942. He served with Battery C, 222nd AAA Searchlight Battalion, Coast Artillery Corps (AAA), training at Camp Haan, Calif.; Camp Irwin, Calif.; Orlando, Fla. (Army Air Forces School of Applied Tactics Training), and Camp Stewart, Ga. He served as power plant operator for a searchlight battery in the Pacific area, going to New Guinea March 16, 1944. From Finschhafen and Aitape he went to Luzon in the Philippines and served on Mangaldan Air Strip, Jan. 9 to June 3, 1944, his unit being assigned to Anti-Aircraft Defense. He was on detached service with the 102nd AAA (AW) Battalion June 5 to Aug. 5, 1944, in Anti-Aircraft Defense and Beacon Light Service. He was in combat on New Guinea and Luzon and has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars and the bronze Invasion Arrowhead, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star, the Distinguished Unit Citation Badge, World War II Victory Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Jan. 14, 1946.

③ John L. Clements, Jr.

PFC, U. S. Marine Corps

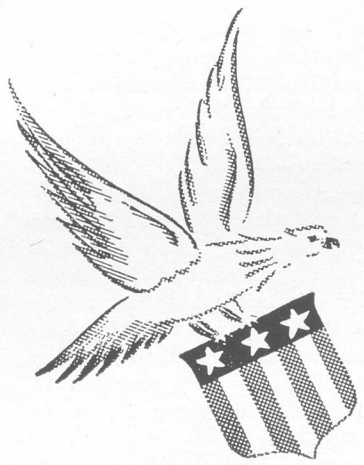
Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Clements, Sr., and husband of Lahoma L. Clements of Bogalusa, La., he was born May 20, 1920, and attended Bogalusa High School and LSU. Prior to his service with the Marines, Clements was employed with the Gaylord Container Corp. Entering the service Sept. 26, 1942, at New Orleans, he was assigned to San Diego, Calif., Marine Base, later being sent to Telephone School at Camp Elliott, Calif. He departed Feb. 18, 1943, for the Pacific where he participated in the Consolidation of Southern Solomons, the Invasion of Guam, and Defense of Tinian. Clements was awarded a letter of commendation and three Campaign Stars. After three years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged Oct. 25, 1945.

④ Jeff Bryant Drury

PFC, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Drury and husband of Florence Tregle Drury of Manchac, La., he was born Aug. 17, 1921, and attended Ponchatoula School. Entering the service July 3, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Elliott, Calif. He departed June 5, 1943, for Australia and participated in the bitter fighting at Okinawa, New Guinea, Cape Gloucester and Peleliu. Drury received the Purple Heart Oct. 18, 1944, at Peleliu. After more than three years of meritorious service to his country he was discharged Nov. 9, 1945, at San Diego.





O'Neal Walker

PFC, U. S. Marines

Son of Mrs. Ida Walker of Varnado. He was born Sept. 11, 1922, and attended Varnado High School at Varnado. He was with Gaylord Container Corporation, Bogalusa, prior to his induction into the United States Marine Corps Reserve on Oct. 26, 1942, at New Orleans. Private First Class Walker served at the Marine Corps Base in San Diego, Calif., and received Infantry training, then embarked June 14, 1943, for the South Pacific where he served in Australia, the New Britain Islands, the Palau Islands and other islands with the First Marine Division in the Infantry. He fought in the Campaigns of Cape Gloucester, New Britain, an unknown island, and Peleliu in the Palau Islands in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. This gallant Marine was killed in action against the enemy in the Marine assault on Peleliu in the Palau Islands on Sept. 18, 1944. He had the Sharpshooter Badge, Bayonet Expert Badge, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars and the Purple Heart for wounds which cost his life in combat for his country, presented posthumously at Varnado on Dec. 11, 1944.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Virgil Franklin Underwood, Jr.

Corporal, Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Franklin Underwood of Bogalusa, La., was born Jan. 3, 1924. He attended Bogalusa High School and Louisiana State University. He was inducted into the service Jan. 20, 1943, at New Orleans. While in the States he received training at Sheppard Field, Texas, Scott Field, Ill., Truax Field, Wis., Boca Raton, Fla., Langley Field, Va., Fort Knox, Ky., Godman Field, and Selfridge Field, Mich. He departed for overseas service Dec. 5, 1944, and served on Oahu, Kwajalein and Eniwetok Islands. He served 14 months in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations as a radio-radar mechanic, and has the American Theater of Operations Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. Corporal Underwood was honorably discharged Feb. 23, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Texas.

② John Richard Underwood

1/S.C., U. S. Navy

John Richard Underwood was born July 20, 1926, and attended Bogalusa High School, Bogalusa, La. Feb. 7, 1944, he was inducted into the service at New Orleans. From there he was sent to the U. S. Naval Training School at Farragut, Idaho, then to Bremerton, Wash. After completing his training he embarked for overseas service at New Hebrides, July 19, 1944. He served on Guam, Saipan, Marshall Islands, Palau and the Philippines, and has the Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with three Stars, American Theater of Operations Medal and the Philippine Liberation Medal with two Stars. After more than two years of unselfish service he was honorably discharged May 10, 1946. 1/S.C. Underwood is the son of Mr. and Mrs. V. F. Underwood, Bogalusa, La.

③ Henrietta Winstead

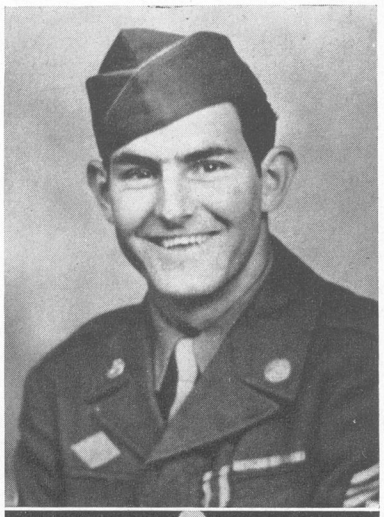
T/4, U. S. WAC

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther A. Winstead of Bogalusa, La., she was born Dec. 19, 1922. Henrietta attended Bogalusa High School and prior to her enlistment in the WAC was employed by the Gaylord Container Corp. She entered the service Aug. 26, 1943, at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga., where she served as a bonded postal clerk and assistant army mail clerk. She is the holder of the Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Ribbon and Victory Ribbon.

④ Alton R. Morris

S 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Morris and husband of June Elaine Morris of Bogalusa, La., he was born Dec. 4, 1919. Morris attended Bogalusa schools. Entering the service May 30, 1944, he received training at Camp Wallace, Texas, Camp Elliott, Calif., and San Pedro, Calif. He departed Sept. 23, 1944, for overseas and participated in the battles of the Leyte Gulf, Lingayen Gulf, Corregidor, Palau Islands, Okinawa, Borneo and Mindoro Straits. Morris is the holder of Campaign Ribbons with the Fifth, Seventh and Third Fleet Task Force 58, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star, and American Theater Ribbon. After more than one year of meritorious service for his country he was discharged Nov. 25, 1945. He is the father of Racel Wayne, Mary Elizabeth and Alton J. Morris.



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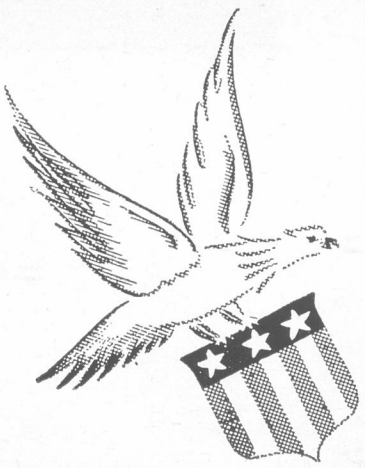


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① Emile Messina

T/Sgt., U. S. Army

Emile Messina was born Dec. 10, 1922. He attended Bogalusa High School and prior to entering the service he was a machinist in New Orleans, La., at the Equitable Equipment Company. He was inducted into the Army May 19, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, La. Later he was transferred to Camp Rodman, Md., and from there to Camp Reynolds, Pa., and Camp Stoneman, Calif. He embarked for overseas service Jan. 27, 1944, and was sent to Australia. He was also stationed in New Guinea, Philippine Islands and Japan. He served in the capacity of a heavy automotive mechanic. He participated in the campaigns of Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with two Bronze Stars, Philippine Liberation Medal with one Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. After more than two years of unselfish service to his country, he was honorably discharged Jan. 9, 1946. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Messina, Bogalusa, Louisiana.



② Louis Messina

Private, U. S. Army

Louis Messina, husband of Perline Cherry Messina, Bogalusa, La., and son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Messina, also of Bogalusa, was born Jan. 15, 1915. He is the father of two children, Lucy Marie and Virginia Ann. He attended Long Avenue School, Richardson Town in Bogalusa, and before entering the service was employed as a truck driver. On May 24, 1945, he was inducted into the Army at Camp Chaffee, Ark., and later was transferred to Camp Ellis, Ill. He was honorably discharged Aug. 27, 1945, at Camp Ellis, Ill., after several months of unselfish service to his country with the United States Army.

③ Roy Messina

1/S. C., U. S. Navy

Roy Messina, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Messina, Byrd Avenue, Bogalusa, La., was born Oct. 10, 1920. He attended Bogalusa High School and prior to entering the service was employed by the Gaylord Container Corporation. He was inducted into the service Jan. 13, 1942, at New Orleans, from where he was sent to San Diego, Calif. He served two years on the USS Mississippi then the USS Makin Island, and was stationed in the Philippines, having left the United States July 21, 1942. He served in the Aleutian Islands and Pacific Island, then returned to San Diego Naval Air Station for further training. He has the Philippine Liberation Medal with one Bronze Star, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, and the Victory Medal. He is still serving his country with the U. S. Navy.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Lindrose Hillory Moak

Ensign, U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Mrs. Lucille Purvis of Bogalusa, La., and husband of Alice Nabers Moak of Mobile, Ala., he was born Feb. 11, 1922. Moak attended Bogalusa High School and Pearl River College, Poplarville, Miss. He entered the service Sept. 22, 1942, and received training at Camp Harahan, La., New Orleans, La., Manhattan Beach, N. Y., and San Francisco, Calif. Departing Nov. 7, 1943, for sea duty, Moak served aboard the USS Menges. He served in the Marshalls, Marianas and Okinawa. He is the holder of the European-North African Theater Ribbon with two Stars, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with one Star, the American Theater Ribbon and was awarded the Purple Heart May 3, 1944, in Oran, Algeria. After more than three years of meritorious service to his country he was discharged Jan. 6, 1946.

② Reginald M. Moak

Sergeant, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mrs. Nettie Lucille Purvis and husband of Lennie W. Moak of Bogalusa, La., he was born Nov. 8, 1923, and attended Bogalusa High School and Pearl River College, Poplarville, Miss. Entering the service Nov. 13, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif. He departed Jan. 18, 1943, for Midway Island and was acting first sergeant of a Special Weapons Group. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. Sergeant Moak was discharged Dec. 15, 1945, at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

③ Thomas L. O'Bryant

T/5, U. S. Army

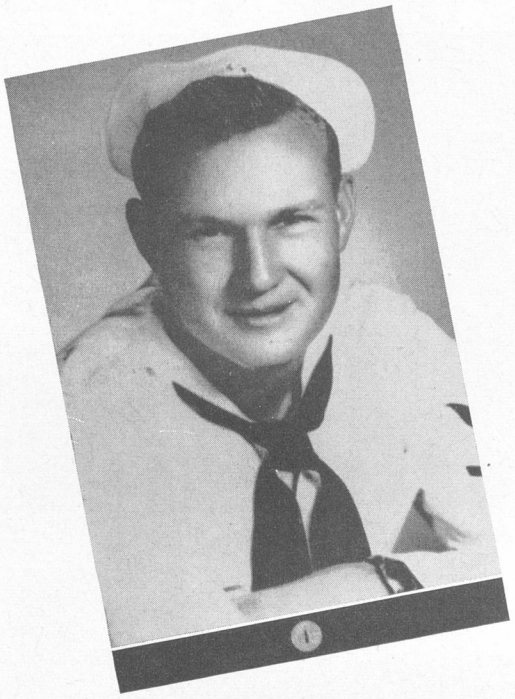
Son of Mr. William Leahman O'Bryant and husband of Mrs. Juanita Bankston O'Bryant of Bogalusa, La., was born Nov. 26, 1922. He attended Bogalusa High School and later was employed by the Gaylord Container Corporation. On Feb. 4, 1943, he was inducted at New Orleans, La., and received his basic training at Camps Beauregard, Swift and Myles Standish. He embarked for England on Oct. 8, 1943, and was given assignments in England, France, Belgium, Germany, Czechoslovakia as a jeep driver. He saw action in the campaigns in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe and holds the Distinguished Service Citation, Good Conduct Medal and the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal. T/5 O'Bryant received his discharge on October 24, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

④ Riley W. Brown

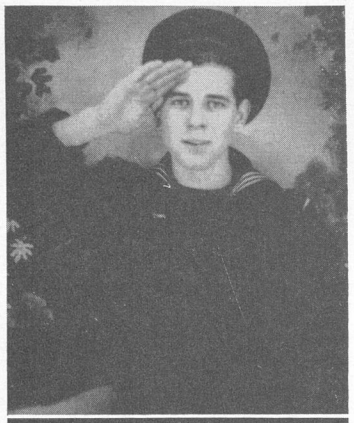
Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Brown and husband of Wessie Pearl Thomas Brown of Bogalusa, La., he was born Dec. 10, 1910. Brown attended Varnado High School. Entering the service Oct. 13, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Beauregard, La., for training. Later he was sent to Lake Charles, La., Victoria, Texas, and Ft. Custer, Mich. He departed Aug. 19, 1943, for England and as a member of the Ninth Air Force participated in the Northern France, Central Europe and Rhineland Campaigns. Sergeant Brown was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Medal and Victory Medal. After more than three years of faithful service to his country he was discharged March 17, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA







① Kenneth Rudolph Mizell

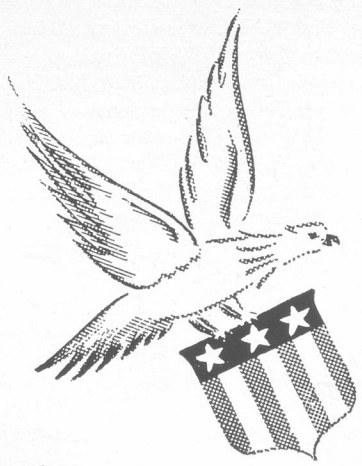
A.M.M. 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Mizell of Bogalusa, La., was born Nov. 1, 1926. He attended Bogalusa High School prior to entering the service on Oct. 20, 1944, at New Orleans, La., where he was assigned to the U. S. Navy Reserves. He received his boot training at the Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif., and further training at Camp Elliott and later was transferred to Naval Receiving Station, San Pedro, Calif., and then went aboard the USS ROI, CVE 103 for duty. On April 1, 1945, he embarked for overseas and was later transferred to the Naval Air Station in Honolulu for duty with Squadron V. R. 12 DF Naval Air Transportation Service. He holds the American Theater of Operations Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with two Stars and the Victory Medal. He received his discharge June 23, 1946, at New Orleans, La.

② Felix Ernest Jordan, Jr.

Corporal, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Jordan of Bogalusa, La., he was born April 1, 1923. He is the husband of Melba Jean Winsor Jordan and brother of John Jordan. He attended Bogalusa High School and LaSalle Extension University. On May 18, 1942, he entered the U. S. Marine Corps and received training at San Diego, Calif., and Camp Elliot, Calif. Later he was assigned to Daytona Beach, Fla., Bainbridge, Md., and Camp Mathews, Calif. In January, 1943, he was shipped to the South Pacific. Jordan participated in the fighting on Guam, Iwo Jima and Bougainville. He is the holder of the American Theater and Asiatic-Pacific Ribbons, the Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged May 17, 1946, at Bainbridge, Md.

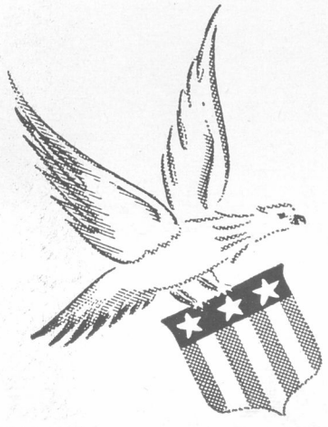


③ Earl Lott

1/S.C., U. S. Coast Guard

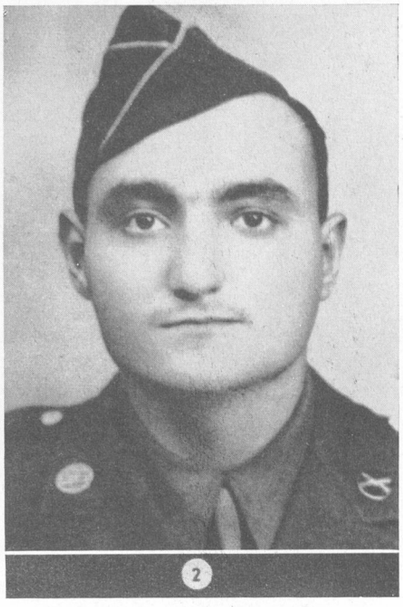
Son of Mrs. Ellie Cola Lott, Rt. 1, Box 881, Bogalusa, La., and husband of Marion Janice Lott, he was born Sept. 5, 1926. Lott attended Enon High School. Prior to his services with the U. S. Coast Guard he was farming for himself. Lott entered the service Sept. 7, 1943, and was assigned to St. Augustine, Fla., for training. He was later shipped to Little Creek, Va., Norfolk, Va., and Key West, Fla., for duty. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





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① Frank Matthews Scianna

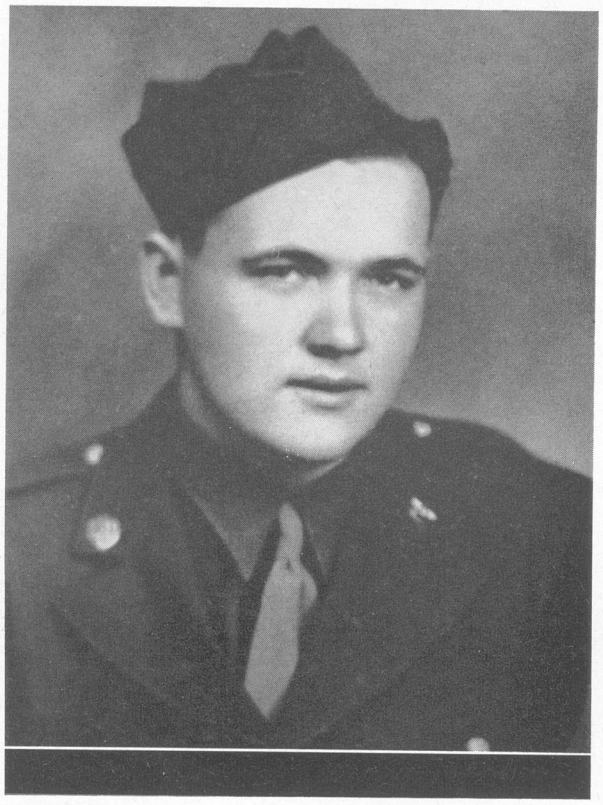
Corporal, AAA (AW), AUS

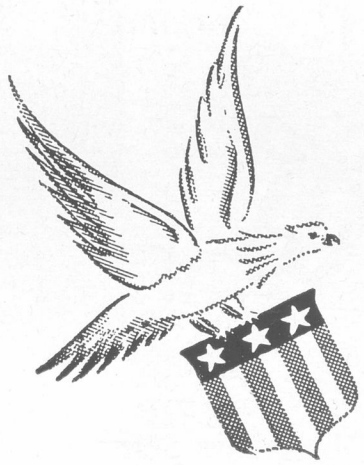
Husband of Mrs. Polly Scianna, 1018 Front Street, Bogalusa. He is the son of Mr. Frank Scianna, 557 Avenue R, Bogalusa, and was born Aug. 10, 1923. Entering the Army of the U. S. on Jan. 6, 1941, at Bogalusa, he went to Camp Hulen, Texas, assigned to training and duty with the Coast Artillery Corps. He was sent to Camp Young, Calif., for desert training. Going to the European Theater, he departed Aug. 6, 1942, and served in England and in Scotland, receiving combat training. He served in Africa, Sicily, and Italy with an Anti-Aircraft Artillery (Air Warning) Battalion attached to the Field Artillery. He fought in the Campaigns of Algeria, French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, the North Apennines, and the Po Valley. He has the Bronze Indian Arrowhead for assault invasion, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with eight bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on July 20, 1945.

② George Scianna

PFC, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Scianna, 557 Avenue R, Bogalusa. He was born Jan. 24, 1922, and attended Columbia and Central High Schools. He was a retail sales clerk prior to his induction into the Army of the United States on Oct. 15, 1942, at New Orleans. He received infantry training and served at Camp Adair, Ore.; Camp White, Ore.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; San Luis Obispo, Calif., and Camp Beale, Calif. He embarked for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater on July 23, 1944, and went into combat in the Philippine Islands and the Rykyu Islands. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars for the Southern Philippines and the Rykyus Campaign (Okinawa), the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the bronze Indian Arrowhead for assault invasion over the beaches, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Jan. 18, 1946.



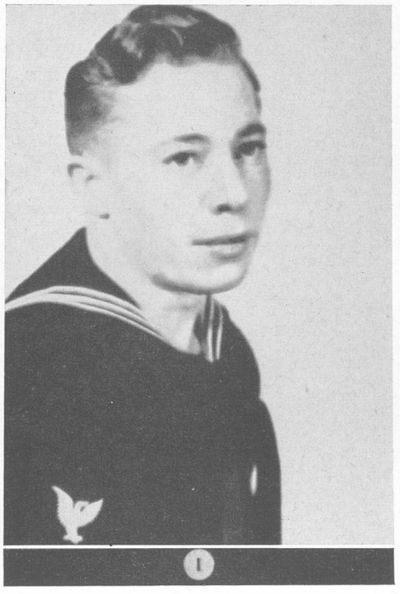


William H. Patterson

PFC, U. S. Army

William H. Patterson was born July 9, 1926, and is the son of Mrs. George E. Long and Mr. William H. Patterson of Bogalusa, La. He attended Bogalusa High School and later was employed by the Higgins Aircraft Company, New Orleans, La. In August, 1944, he entered the service at New Orleans, La., and was assigned to the U. S. Army Field Artillery, receiving his basic training at Fort Bliss, Texas. He embarked for the Philippine Islands on June 1, 1945, and later saw action on Luzon and the Philippine Islands. He holds the Good Conduct Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal and the Victory Medal. PFC Patterson served in the first Rocket Battalion to go overseas and received his discharge Oct. 27.





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① Millard Wilford Knight

Coxswain, U. S. Navy

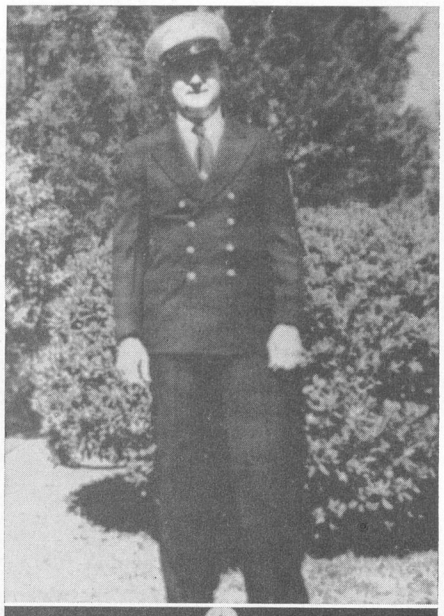
Son of Mr. and Mrs. William Ira Knight of Bogalusa, La., was born Aug. 12, 1925. After attending Bogalusa High School, he was employed by the Gaylord Container Corp. before being inducted on Nov. 16, 1943, at New Orleans, where he was assigned to the Navy. Upon completion of his training in the States, he embarked on June 16, 1944, for overseas on board the USS Alshain. He saw action at Leyte, Lingayen Gulf, San Felipe, San Narcisco Area-Luzon, Philippine Islands, Okinawa and Iwo Jima. Coxswain Knight holds the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with three bronze stars, and the Philippine Liberation Medal with two bronze stars. On April 15, 1946, he received his discharge at New Orleans.

② Marvin Charles Knight

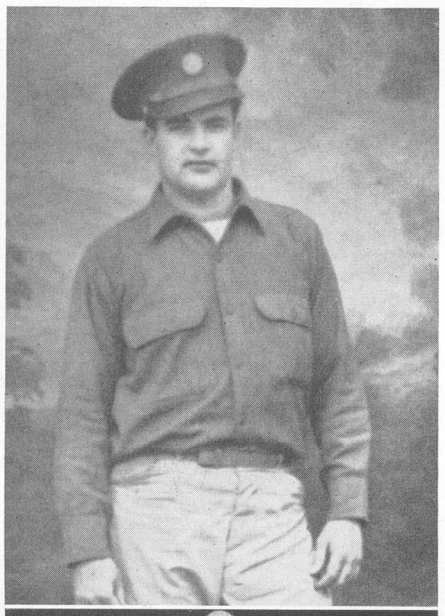
M.M. 2/C, U. S. Navy

MM 2/C Knight is the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Ira Knight of Bogalusa, La., and was born Nov. 27, 1921. He attended Bogalusa High School and was later employed by the Gaylord Container Corp. prior to being inducted on July 14, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned to the U. S. Navy and upon completion of his boot training he embarked for overseas on Nov. 28, 1942, where he saw service for more than two years and saw action in the campaigns in Munda, New Georgia; Rendova and Okinawa. He holds the American Theater of Operations Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with two bronze stars and the Good Conduct Medal. On Dec. 20, 1945, he received his discharge at New Orleans.

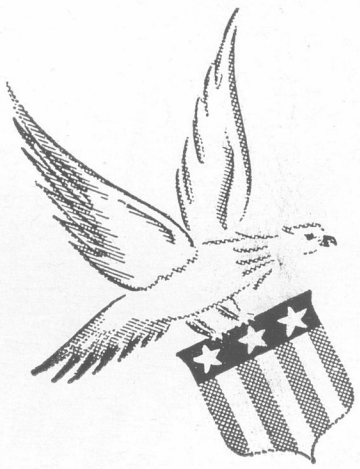
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① James Elby Rogers

CMM, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Monroe Rogers of Bogalusa, La., was born Aug. 29, 1911. He entered the service March 18, 1930, at New Orleans, La., serving with the U. S. Navy. On June, 1944, he sailed for the Pacific and saw action in the campaigns in the Marianas, Western Caroline Islands, Leyte, Luzon, Okinawa and Gunto. CMM Rogers holds the American Defense Medal with one bronze star, American Area Campaign Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with one silver star and the Good Conduct Ribbon with three stars. At the time of this writing, he is still serving his country loyally as Chief Machinist Mate in the U. S. Navy.

② Sidney E. Rogers

Private, U. S. Army

Sidney E. Rogers was born Aug. 7, 1916, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Monroe Rogers of Bogalusa, La. He attended Bogalusa High School and on Jan. 6, 1941, was inducted at Bogalusa, La., and was assigned to the U. S. Army. After receiving his training at Camp Hulen, Texas, and Fort Bliss, Texas, he embarked for overseas on Feb. 28, 1943. He was given assignments in Africa, Sardinia, France and Germany and saw action in the campaigns in Africa, the Rhineland and Central Europe. Pvt. Rogers holds the American Defense Service Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre of Operations Medal and the American Theater of Operations Medal. After more than four years of unselfish service to his country, Private Rogers received his discharge June 18, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Charles William Tanner

Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Eunice Virginia Tanner, Bogalusa, La. He was born Aug. 5, 1918, and attended school in Petal, Miss. Prior to entering the service he was manager of a retail store. Inducted Sept. 28, 1942, he received his training at Camp Shelby, Miss., Camp Coxcomb, Ariz., and Fort Dix, N. J. On Dec. 31, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater where he served as a Message Center Clerk in Italy and Africa, participating in the campaigns of Rome-Arno, North Apennines and Po Valley. Corporal Tanner has the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations and American Theater of Operations Medals, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Nov. 10, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Tanner, Bogalusa, La.

② Howard M. Miller

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Sylvia Cone Miller of Franklinton, La. He was born Oct. 15, 1909, and attended Franklinton High School. Inducted May 23, 1942, at Camp Livingston, La., he received his basic training at Fort Riley, Kan., attended Motor School at Fort Bliss, Texas, attended Cavalry Mechanic School at Fort Riley, Kan., and was then assigned to Camp Maxey, Texas, for further training. On Nov. 15, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served in England, France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Czechoslovakia. Sergeant Miller participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the Distinguished Unit Badge, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Nov. 12, 1945. He is the son of Amanda B. Miller, Franklinton, La.

③ Benton E. Bickham, Jr.

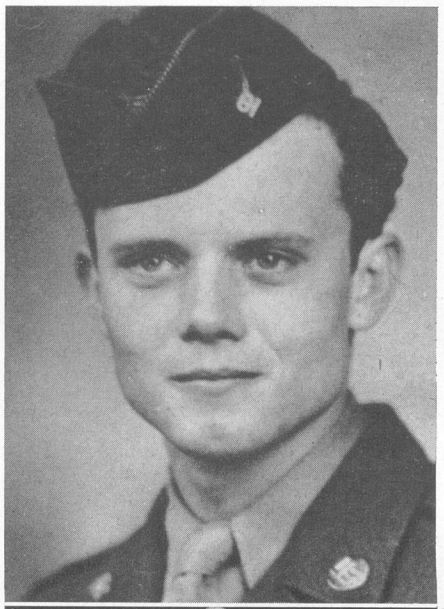
Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Benton E. Bickham, Sr., Franklinton, La. He was born Aug. 31, 1916, and attended Franklinton High School, Louisiana Tech and Louisiana State University. He entered the service March 6, 1941, at Camp Claiborne, and received his training at Camp Wolters, Texas, and at Camp Shanks, N. Y. In 1942, he embarked for the Middle East Theater with the 82nd Airborne Division, and served in North Africa, Tunisia, Casablanca and Sicily, participating in the North African campaign and the Invasion of Sicily. Sergeant Bickham has the European-African- Middle East Theater of Operations Medal. He was honorably discharged Nov. 8, 1944, in New York. He is the husband of Walterine H. Bickham, Franklinton, La.

④ Paul Joseph Fontana

United States Army

Husband of Augusta Fowler Fontana, 612 Louisiana Avenue, Bogalusa, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Fontana, 606 Columbia, Bogalusa. He attended Bogalusa High School. On June 15, 1944, he entered the service at Camp Beauregard. He was assigned to duty at Fort Ord and Camp Stoneman, Calif. On Jan. 1, 1945, he departed for Leyte, Philippine Islands. With Company H, 172nd Infantry Regiment of the veteran 43rd Division, he engaged in the amphibious beach assault on Luzon through Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines. He fought his way through the hill terrain of the Zambolas, and in the assault on Ipo Dam, in which he won the Silver Star Medal. Then he served as part of the occupation force in Japan with the First Cavalry Division. He has, in addition to the Silver Star won in the bitter fighting at Ipo Dam, a Presidential Unit Citation, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two Battle Stars, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the World War II Victory Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, Feb. 5, 1946.



① JEWEL L. FORNEA

Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Alma Mae Fornea of Angie, La. He was born Aug. 19, 1924, and attended Angie High School and Sullivan Trade School. Prior to his services with the Army he was employed by the Gaylord Container Corp. Entering the service Aug. 4, 1943, he received training at Camp Barkeley, Texas, later being sent to Camp Granite, Calif., for maneuvers. He departed March 22, 1944, for England as a medical technician and participated in the bitter fighting at Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. Cpl. Fornea was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal, Bronze Arrowhead, Combat Medics Badge, Unit Citation and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Dec. 30, 1945.

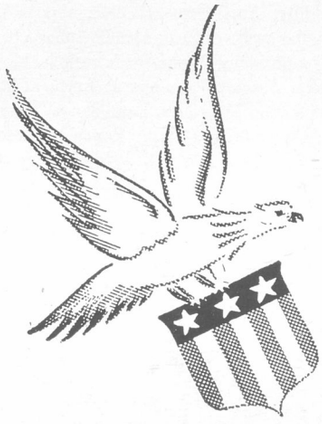


② ISADORE MCDANIEL

SSML 3/C, U. S. Navy

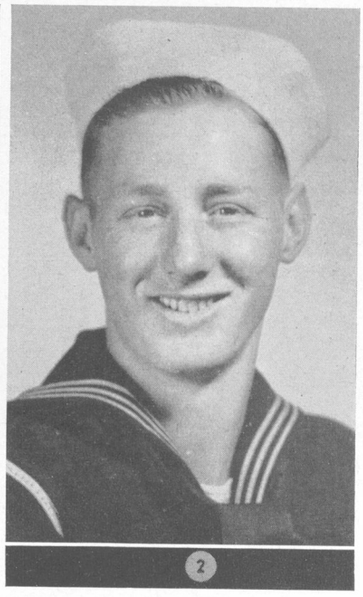
Isadore McDaniel was born Oct. 14, 1924, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde McDaniel of Bogalusa, La. After attending Bogalusa Central School he was employed as a shipyard worker before being inducted July 22, 1943, at New Orleans, La. He was assigned to the U. S. Navy and received his boot training at San Diego, Calif. On Nov. 7, 1943, he embarked for overseas and saw action on the Gilbert Islands, Makin Island, Taroa Island, Maloelap Atoll, Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands, Truk, Palau, Woleai, New Guinea, Satawan, Caroline Islands, Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Mindoro, P. I., Luzon and Formosa, Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, P. I., South China Sea, Okinawa, Iwo Jima and Tokyo. He holds the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one bronez star, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations with nine bronze stars, American Area Service Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation and World War II Victory Ribbon. On March 7, 1946 he received his discharge at New Orleans.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





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① William C. Simm

Ensign, Merchant Marine

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simm, 626 Austin Street, Bogalusa. He was born Feb. 25, 1916, and attended Bogalusa High School and LSU, graduating in 1940. He was connected with Higgins Aircraft, New Orleans, prior to induction in the Merchant Marine July 8, 1944, at New Orleans. He served at Sheepshead Bay, Bronx, N. Y., and Marine Hospital, New Orleans, and embarked for the Southwest Pacific Dec. 26, 1944, as purser and pharmacist mate on ships transporting ammunition and other cargo to the Admiralties, Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines, Morotai, N. E. I., Noumea, New Caledonia, Manila, P. I., Biak, Dutch New Guinea, Finschafen, British New Guinea, San Fernando on Luzon in the Philippines, the Marshalls, and Hilo in the Hawaiian Islands.

② Walter William Simm

Fireman First Class, USNR

Husband of Margaret Frances Simm, 1360 Nelson Avenue, Bronx, N. Y., and father of Robert Walter Simm. He was born Oct. 5, 1925, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Simm, Sumrall, Miss., and attended Bogalusa High School. He was with Higgins Industries, New Orleans, prior to his induction in the United States Naval Reserve on April 2, 1943, at New Orleans. He served at San Diego and San Francisco Naval Training Stations, Newport, R. I., and Philadelphia, Pa., Naval Bases, and embarked July 4, 1943, for the Southwest Pacific where he was assigned to duty in amphibious operations aboard the USS Zeilin with which he served in the invasions of Adak and Kiska in the Aleutian Islands, Tarawa in the Ellice Islands, the Marshall Islands, Hollandia in Dutch New Guinea, and Bougainville in the Solomons. He was granted his honorable discharge at Philadelphia Dec. 28, 1944.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① David Harrison Stringfield, Jr.

Ensign (Naval Aviator), USNR

Son of David Harrison and Elma Jenkins Stringfield of Franklinton. He was born Dec. 19, 1925, and attended Franklinton High School and LSU. Entering the United States Naval Reserve (Naval Aviation) on Aug. 10, 1943, at the Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas, he went from the NAS at Corpus Christi to the Navy Flight Preparatory School, Monmouth College, Monmouth, Ill. He was assigned to the Civil Aeronautics Administration War Training Service at Carrol College, Helena, Mont., and received preflight training at St. Mary's College, Calif. From the NAS at Norman, Okla., primary flight training, he was assigned to the Naval Air Technical Training Command at Corpus Christi and the Naval Air Station at Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Ensign Stringfield was granted his honorable release from active duty on Dec. 24, 1945, at the Naval Air Station in New Orleans.

② James Everett Wilcombe

Lieut. (jg), U. S. Navy

Husband of Flora Elizabeth Wilcombe and father of Dorothy Elizabeth Wilcombe. He is the son of Douglas Lathrop Wilcombe, 2744 Lorraine Street, Baton Rouge, and attended Hammond High School and Southeastern Louisiana College. Entering the United States Navy Aug. 23, 1937, at New Orleans, he served at the Naval Operations Base, Norfolk, Va., to November, 1937, and served in the States at the Armed Guard Gunnery School, NOB, Norfolk, Va., in 1942, and the Amphibious Training School, Norfolk, in May, 1944. He served aboard the USS Henderson, February-April, 1938, and the USS Pensacola from that time to August, 1941. He was gun captain of an Armed Guard crew shipping from the United States to the United Kingdom, February, 1942-April, 1943. He was on duty as gun captain with an Armed Guard crew on South Atlantic duty, April-October, 1943, and in the South Pacific. Awarded the rank of ensign in October, 1943, he transferred to the Amphibious Force with which he made the initial Amphibious Assault Landings at Leyte at Red Beach (Palo), Ormoc on Leyte, Mariveles, Zamboanga, Parang and Macajalar Bay on Mindanao and Balik Papan, Borneo. He was placed on inactive reserve Jan. 24, 1946, at New Orleans.

③ Frank Evans Percy

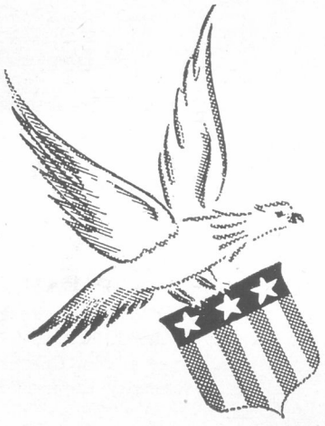
Chief Storekeeper, USN

Husband of Katherine G. Percy, 701 Avenue B, Bogalusa, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Evans Percy, 315 Carolina Avenue, Bogalusa. He has two children. He was born Dec. 18, 1912, and attended Perkinston High School, Perkinston, Miss., and Kemper Military Academy. He also attended Louisiana State University. On July 30, 1942, he entered service and trained at Camp Peary, Va., with the Seabees. He attended the Naval Spare Parts School in Joliet, Ill., prior to going to Camp Hueneme, Calif. On June 6, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater and was stationed on Manus Island in the Admiralty Group with Seabee Detachment No. 1050. He helped construct and install a naval supply base there. After spending 17 months in the Pacific, engaged in unselfish service, Chief Storekeeper Percy returned to the States and received his honorable discharge Nov. 14, 1945.

④ Ralph Patrick Welsh

Chief Clerk, U. S. Army

Ralph Patrick Welsh was born Aug. 17, 1907, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Jack Welsh of Bogalusa, La., and husband of Mrs. Sara Caston Welsh, Bogalusa, La. He is the father of two children, Lynn Welsh and Donna Ann Welsh. He attended Bogalusa High School, Millsaps College and the Cincinnati College of Embalming, and for several years was engaged as a mortician. On April 1, 1943, he entered the service at New Orleans, La., and was assigned to the U. S. Army Transport Service as chief clerk. He embarked in June, 1943, for Recife, Brazil, and after serving his country unselfishly for more than two years, he received his discharge on July 23, 1945, at New Orleans.



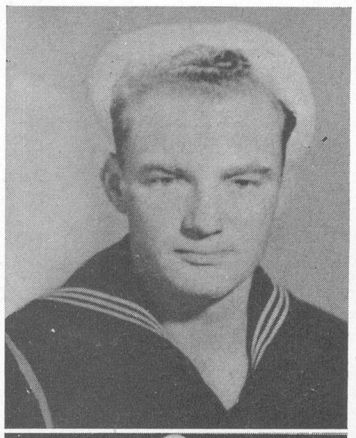


Harold Douglas Mitchell

Anti-Aircraft Artillery, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Mildred Hannagrief Mitchell, Founders' Drive, Bogalusa, and son of Corbett Leon Mitchell and Lula G. Dean Mitchell of 409 Long Avenue, Route 2, Bogalusa. He was born Oct. 28, 1920, and attended Bogalusa High School. Entering the Army of the United States on Jan. 7, 1941, at Bogalusa, he went to Camp Hulen, Texas, for training with the Coast Artillery Corps. He served with Anti-Aircraft Artillery units at Camp Young, Calif., and at Indiantown Gap Reservation, Pa. He embarked for the European Theater of Operations on July 25, 1942, going to Tidworth, England. He served in England as first sergeant, Battery C, 105th Anti-Aircraft Security Battalion. Sergeant Mitchell was accidentally killed at Tidworth, England, on Saturday, Sept. 5, 1942.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



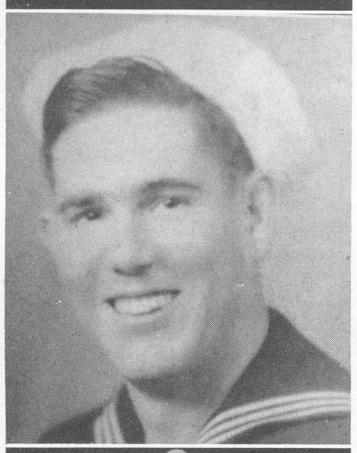
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② H. D. Bass

Gunner's Mate First Class, U. S. Navy

Husband of Myrtle Clements Bass, and father of Terrance D. Bass, 1929 Eighth Street, Port Arthur, Texas. He was born May 24, 1915, attended Bogalusa High School and Pearl River College, and was employed by the Gulf Refinery prior to entering the service. Inducted Oct. 31, 1942, at Houston, Texas, he received his boot training at Camp Endicott, R. I., his advanced training at Camp Parks, Calif., and he embarked from Port Hueneme, Calif., on June 9, 1943, for the Pacific Theater of Operations. He served at New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, New Guinea, Leyte and Samar, participating in the invasion of Bougainville, and the campaign at Leyte. He was honorably discharged at Camp Wallace, Texas, on Oct. 15, 1945. He is the son of Lela Boyete Bass of Bogalusa, La.

③ Louis Marx

Storekeeper First Class, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Minna L. Marx, Georgia Avenue, Bogalusa, La. He was born July 2, 1904, attended Bogalusa High School, and owned his own business prior to entering the service. Inducted Aug. 27, 1942, at New Orleans, he was assigned to Camp Allen, Norfolk, Va., Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., Camp Lee Stephenson, Maine, and Camp Endicott, Providence, R. I., serving as storekeeper at each place. On Feb. 27, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he served at Guam as storekeeper the entire time he was overseas. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on Nov. 1, 1945. He is the husband of Rosemary Engerran Marx, Caroline Lane, Bogalusa, La.

① Edward Everett Foil, Sr.

Fireman First Class, U. S. Navy

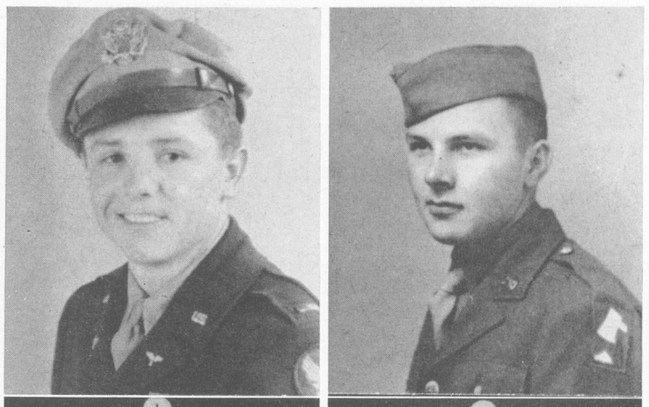
Husband of Mercedes Chastant Foil and father of Edward Everett, Jr., 642 Avenue B, Bogalusa, La. He was born May 14, 1918, attended Bogalusa High School and was employed by the Gaylord Container Corporation prior to entering the service. Inducted May 16, 1944, he received his basic training at Camp Wallace, Texas, attended Submarine School and Diesel School at New London, Conn., and was then assigned to Camp Elliot, Calif. On Jan. 9, 1945, he embarked for overseas, and he served on Patrol Duty with Submarine Squadron 12, attached to USS Bushnell AS 15, at Pearl Harbor and Midway. Fireman First Class Foil has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans, on Jan. 12, 1946. He is the son of Melissa Self Foil, Bogalusa, La.

④ George Lemuel Potter

Radarman Third Class, U. S. Navy

Husband of Bertha Breaux Potter and father of George L., Jr., and Priscilla Ann Potter, 416 Louisiana Avenue, Bogalusa, La. He was born May 19, 1919, graduated from Chamberlain-Hunt Academy, and attended Louisiana State University. Inducted May 17, 1944, at New Orleans, he received his boot training at Camp Wallace, Texas, attended APA Pre-Com. School, Seattle, Wash, and was then assigned to the USS Gage APA 168. On Oct. 12, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he participated in the Invasion of Okinawa, and the Occupation of Japan. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with one Battle Star, and the American Theater of Operations Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on Jan. 13, 1946. He is the son of Mrs. Frances Potter, Bogalusa, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





① Charles Vernon Wilson

First Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Monroe Wilson, 113 Superior Avenue, Bogalusa, La. He was born Feb. 11, 1922, and attended Bogalusa High School and Louisiana State University. Inducted Jan. 28, 1943, at New Orleans, he served at Fort Belvoir, Va., Camp Howze, Texas, Camp Shelby, Miss., Ellington Field, Houston, Texas, and Savannah Army Air Field, Savannah, Ga., prior to embarking for overseas on Feb. 1, 1945. He served in Italy, Africa, France, England, Corsica, being based in Italy. He served as Bombardier-Navigator on both A-20 and A-26 type aircraft, flying 25 night combat missions. Lieutenant Wilson participated in the campaigns of North Apennines and Po Valley. He has the Presidential Unit Citation with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal with a citation, and the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal with two Battle Stars. He was put on inactive duty status on Oct. 28, 1945, at Maxwell Field, Alabama.

② Tommy Robert Bateman

Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Bateman, 602 Avenue B, Bogalusa, La. He was born March 9, 1925, attended Bogalusa High School, and was employed by the Gaylord Container Corporation prior to entering the service. Inducted Aug. 12, 1943, he received his training at Camp Beauregard, La., Camp Adair, Ore., Yakima Firing Range, Wash., and Anzie, Calif., and Camp Fannin, Texas. On Aug. 13, 1944, he embarked for the Philippine Islands. Corporal Bateman participated in the campaigns at Biak, Leyte and Luzon. He has the Philippine Liberation Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with three Battle Stars. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Feb. 1, 1946.

③ William Bruce Ladner

Sergeant, MC, Army

Son of William and Blanche Ida Singletary Ladner of Bogalusa. He was born March 20, 1921, and attended Bogalusa High School and Surgical Technician School at Hot Springs, Ark. Entering the Army of the United States Dec. 14, 1939, at Fort Barrancas, Fla., he served at Fort Barrancas, at Fort Benning, Ga., at Camp Beauregard, La., and Camp Shelby, Miss. He was assigned to duty as Surgical Technician at the Station Hospital, New Orleans Port of Embarkation, New Orleans, and also served as shipping and receiving clerk in charge of the medical warehouse. On Oct. 11, 1941, Sergeant Ladner went to Panama and served at Fort Davis in the Canal Zone assigned to duty as a shipping and receiving clerk with the Medical Corps. He has the American Defense Service Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Oct. 1, 1945.

④ Thomas Mathews Hill

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Velma Aleyene Malley and father of Annie Jane Hill, Route 1, Box 301, Bogalusa, La. He was born Jan. 29, 1924, attended Bogalusa High School, and was employed by the Bogalusa Paper Mill prior to entering the service. Inducted Aug. 26, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, he received his Infantry Basic Training at Camp Wolters, Texas. On March 19, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he served at New Caledonia, New Britain, Philippine Islands, Luzon, Negros and Korea. He participated in the campaigns at New Britain, Panay and Luzon. Sergeant Hill has the Philippine Liberation Medal with three Bronze Stars, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, Dec. 16, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Hill, of Bogalusa, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



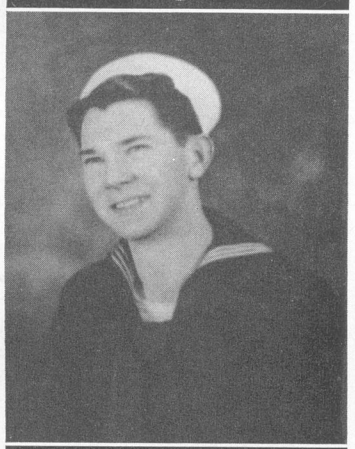
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① Marion Elmer George

PFC, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Perlie F. George, 449 First Avenue, Bogalusa. He was born Jan. 3, 1918, and was a graduate of George Washington High School, Houston, Texas. He was with Texas Oil Company at Port Arthur prior to his induction into the United States Marine Corps on Sept. 2, 1939, at Houston, Texas. He was assigned to the USS Houston with which he left San Diego assigned to duty with the Asiatic Fleet. This gallant Marine was killed in action on Feb. 28, 1942, after being in combat from Dec. 7, 1941, when the enemy struck at Pearl Harbor. He had the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, the American Defense Service Ribbon with Bronze Campaign Star and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, and the Purple Heart for the wounds which cost his life in combat in the Pacific area Feb. 28, 1942, awarded posthumously on Feb. 19, 1946.

② Ray Newman Miller

Ph M 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Myrtle Wilkins Miller of Franklinton and son of Merrick D. and Elvie Reeves Miller. He was born Feb. 22, 1918, and entered the United States Navy Sept. 15, 1942, at New Orleans, going to the U. S. Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas, and Naval Training School (EE and RM) at College Station, Texas. He served at U. S. Naval Hospital, New River, N. C., Medical Field Service School, Camp LeJeune, N. C., and Third Marine Division Headquarters. On Nov. 11, 1944, he embarked for Guam where he served with the Third Marine Division, Regimental Weapons Company, with whom he was in combat in the Campaign of Iwo Jima. He was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on Nov. 22, 1945.

③ Kenneth E. Wilson

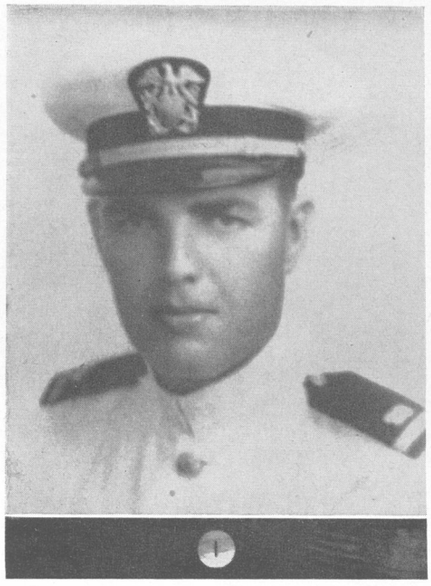
EM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Emelda Smith Wilson, 524 Superior Avenue, Bogalusa, and father of Barbara Emelda Wilson and Lynda Joyce Wilson. He was born March 17, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Monroe Wilson, 113 Superior Avenue, Bogalusa, and attended Bogalusa High School. He was an electrician prior to his induction May 30, 1944, into the United States Naval Reserve at New Orleans. He was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., and the U. S. Naval Electrical School, St. Louis, Mo., going from there to Motor Torpedo Boat School at Melville, R. I. He served with Motor Torpedo Boat Commissioning Detail at Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn, N. Y. On Sept. 17, 1945, he embarked on sea duty patrolling the waters of the American Theater of Operations. He served in this capacity for the remainder of his military service. He was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on March 3, 1946.

④ James Marvin Magee

Yeoman First Class, U. S. Navy

Husband of Genevieve W. Magee, Franklinton, La. He was born June 8, 1922, attended Franklinton High School and Spencer Business College, and was a furniture salesman prior to entering the service. Inducted Sept. 8, 1942, at New Orleans, he received his training at the U. S. Naval Repair Base, New Orleans, La. On Jan. 7, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he served at Pearl Harbor on the Staff of the Commander and Chief of Communications. Yeoman First Class Magee was honorably discharged at the U. S. Naval Air Station, New Orleans, on Dec. 19, 1945. He is the son of Maurice and Ollie King Magee, Franklinton, La.





① Giles P. Pennington

Lieutenant (jg), USN CEC

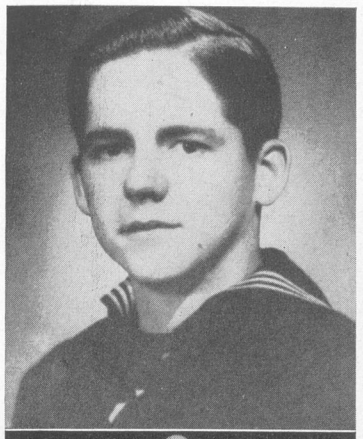
Husband of Mildred M. Pennington, 506 Columbia Street, Covington, and father of Giles P. Pennington, Jr. He was born Oct. 3, 1911, the son of Mrs. Katherine Eels Pennington and the late Dr. George A. Pennington of Madisonville. He attended Madisonville Junior High and Lyon High School, Covington, and Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette, working as an engineer prior to induction May 1, 1943, at Lafayette in the USNR (Construction Engineer). He was assigned to duty as company officer at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va.; Camp Shoemaker, and Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, Calif., and embarked Dec. 27, 1943, for the Pacific area. He was military officer and company officer and served as company commander at Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, and construction officer and assistant security officer on Guam in the Marianas. On Okinawa he served as construction officer and at different times as security and transportation officer, together with his duties as engineering officer. He was in combat in the follow-up on Guam and Okinawa and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon and Victory Medal. He was honorably released from active duty Jan. 16, 1946, at New Orleans.

② Melvin L. Ouder

First Lieutenant, AAF

Husband of Mrs. Jackie D. Ouder, 3603 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, and father of Lonny Lee Ouder. He was born Nov. 24, 1922, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Ouder of Slidell, and attended LSU, the University of North Dakota, and Tulane University. Entering the Army Air Forces Jan. 29, 1943, at New Orleans, he served at Keesler Field, Biloxi, Miss., at Lowry Field, Denver, Col., Buckley Field, Denver; Miami Beach, Fla.; Grand Forks, N. D.; Santa Ana, Calif.; Hondo AAF, Texas; Plant Park, Tampa, Fla.; Gulfport AAF, Miss.; Hunter Field, Ga., and Grenier Field, N. H. He embarked for the European Theater on Sept. 10, 1944, and served in England and on the Continent as lead navigator with the Eighth U. S. Air Force. He fought in the Ardennes, Southern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe and has the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal, and five Oak Leaf Clusters. He was discharged Nov. 24, 1945, at Santa Ana.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① David B. Stidham, Jr.

A.M.M. 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Caroline and David B. Stidham, was born June 24, 1924, and attended the Covington Grammar School and Lyon High School. On Aug. 1, 1942, at New Orleans, La., he entered the armed forces, later being sent to San Diego, Calif. He received training at Bremerton and Arlington, Wash., and Minneapolis, Minn. He departed Sept. 20, 1942, for Dutch Harbor, Alaska. David participated in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. He was honorably discharged Jan. 12, 1946, at New Orleans, La.

② David B. Stidham

Chief Electrician Mate, U. S. Navy Seabees

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Adam R. Stidham of Houston, Texas, and husband of Caroline E. Stidham of Covington, La., he was born Aug. 19, 1895. He attended Seadrift High School, Seadrift, Texas. Prior to his services with the Seabees, Stidham was an electrician with the U. S. Government Custom House, New Orleans, La. He entered the service July 17, 1942, and was assigned to 27th Naval Construction Battalion. He departed Nov. 27, 1942, for overseas and participated in the Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, Tulagi, and Coral Sea and Okinawa Campaigns and Battles. Stidham was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation, two Battle Stars for Tulagi and one Battle Star for Okinawa. He also served in World War I with the Marine Corps. This gallant citizen who fought through both World Wars was discharged Aug. 20, 1945. He is the father of David, Jr., Marge and Gaye Stidham.

③ Grady H. Chatellier

MM 2/C, U. S. Navy

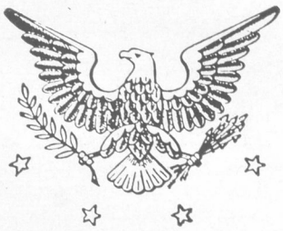
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D. Chatellier of Madisonville. He was born Dec. 7, 1923, and attended Madisonville Junior High School and Lyon High School, Covington. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on Oct. 28, 1942, at San Diego, Calif., he was assigned to the United States Naval Training Station, San Diego, for recruit training. Machinist Mate Second Class Chatellier served with the USS Columbia CL 56, at the United States Naval Operating Base at Norfolk, Va., and with the USS Tabberer DE 418. He was in combat in the Solomon Islands Campaign, the Invasion of Iwo Jima, the Okinawa Campaign, and the Occupation of Japan. He has the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, and was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on March 28, 1946.

④ Westley M. Chatellier

Tec/Sgt., SC, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph D. Chatellier of Madisonville. He was born Feb. 12, 1914, and attended Madisonville Junior High School, Lyon High School at Covington, and RCA Institute, Chicago, Ill. On Jan. 8, 1942, he entered the Army in the Signal Corps at Camp Livingston and was assigned to duty with Eastern Signal Corps School, Fort Monmouth, N. J., and Central Signal Corps School at Camp Crowder, Mo. Technical Sergeant Chatellier was assigned to duty as an instructor in radio and served in this capacity throughout his military service with the Signal Corps in the Army of the United States. He was granted his honorable discharge at Fort Monmouth on Jan. 7, 1946, at the convenience of the government.

The FIGHTING MEN *of* LOUISIANA



① Charles C. Deano

② Edward J. Deano

③ Guy L. Deano, Jr.

④ Thomas Jefferson Sevy

⑤ Ralph Conrad Brauwn

⑥ Edward August Brauwn

⑦ Lester Charles Glockner

⑧ Roger Noble Salter, Jr.

⑨ Clyde Morris Fricke

⑩ Archie A. Fricke

⑪ Bert J. Fricke

⑫ Numa Maradec Hebert

⑬ Fenner (Abie) J. Lacroix

⑭ Warren E. Hendry

⑮ Claude Earl Hendry

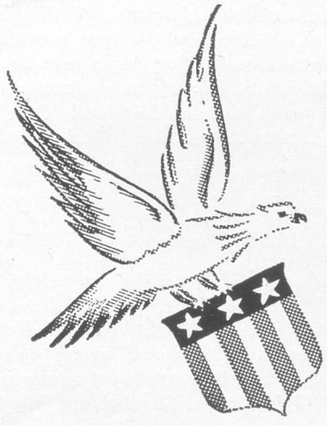
⑯ Marcus E. Hendry, Jr.

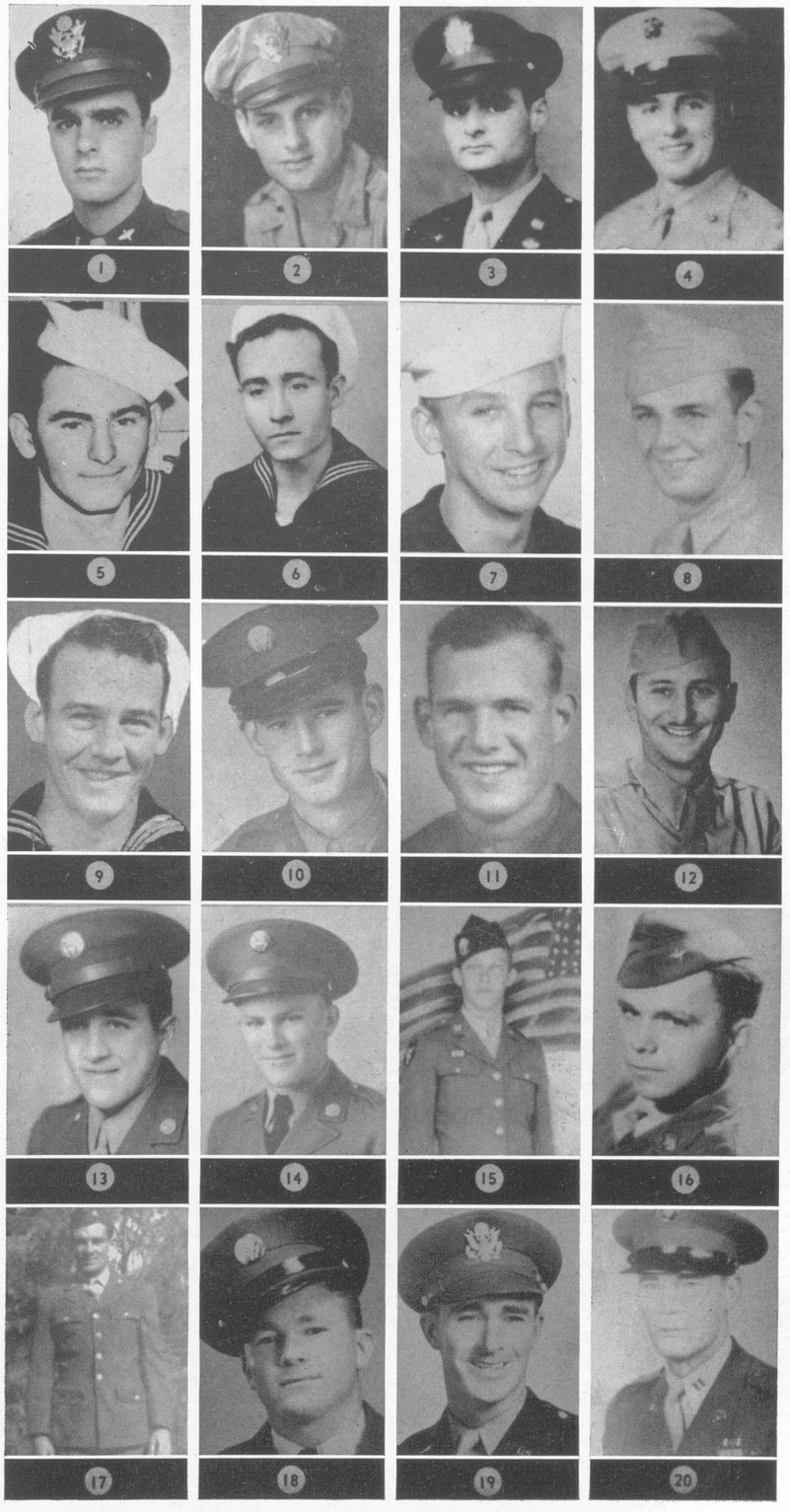
⑰ Lester (Pete) Lacroix

⑱ Lex Rogers

⑲ Charles Henry Rogers, Jr.

⑳ James Melvin Rogers





① CHARLES C. DEANO, 1st Lieut., AUS

Enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Corps July 3, 1942, and entered aviation cadet training for pilots in December, 1942. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Air Forces and pilot in October, 1943, and trained as a pilot of B-24 aircraft until April, 1944. He was promoted to first lieutenant and assigned to the Eighth Air Force, stationed in England, in April, 1944. In May he joined the 492nd Bombardment Group commanded by Colonel Heflin, and flew with them on 35 missions over enemy territory. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and four battle stars for the European Theater of Operations. Returning to the States in 1944, Lieutenant Deano attended engineering school for pilots at Chanute Field, Ill., and on completion of the course was assigned to duty as Pilot Engineering Officer at Mitchel Field, N. Y. He was honorably discharged at Mitchel Field on Oct. 1, 1945, after more than three years of service.

② EDWARD J. DEANO, 1st Lieut., AUS

Enlisted in the Army Air Corps Reserve Nov. 22, 1942, and was called to active duty as a private in the Air Corps (unassigned) on Jan. 28, 1943. He was trained as a pilot in the Central Training Command and was commissioned March 12, 1944, at Ellington Field, Texas. Assigned to the 422nd Army Air Base for RTU combat bombardment training, he completed his training assignments in July, 1944, and was assigned to a B-24 Liberator group with the 15th Air Force based in Italy. With them he completed 48 combat missions over enemy territory in Europe. Upon completion of his missions Lieutenant Deano was attached to Headquarters Army Air Forces in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, where he piloted VIP in transport type aircraft throughout the European Theater. He has the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and six bronze Battle Stars to the European Theater of Operations Ribbon.

③ GUY L. DEANO, JR., 1st Lieut., AUS

Enlisted in the Army Air Corps Reserve on July 2, 1942, as a private in the Air Corps, unassigned. He was called to active duty March 23, 1943, immediately following his graduation from Loyola University School of Law. He was commissioned in the Army Air Forces April 15, 1944, at Marfa Army Air Field, Texas, and after transition training was assigned to the 655th Bombardment Squadron for combat training as pilot of a B-24 Liberator. The 655th Squadron was reorganized as the 55th Reconnaissance Squadron (Long Range Weather), operating throughout the Central and Western Pacific areas. As a member of this squadron, Lieutenant Deano flew 38 reconnaissance missions with the 20th Air Force, including 17 over the home islands of Japan and 17 through typhoons to determine the severity of the weather for the purpose of planning large-scale operations against Japan. He has the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with four battle stars.

④ THOMAS JEFFERSON SEVY, 1st Lieut., Marine Corps

Husband of Ruth Ellen Salter, 611 Rutland, Covington, and father of Claudia Ruth and Jacqueline Ann Sevy. He was born Feb. 13, 1918, the son of Dr. and Mrs. Claude Sevy, and attended Louisiana State University. He was a representative for General Motors Acceptance Corp. prior to entering the United States Marine Corps Jan. 18, 1943. He served at Paris Island, S. C., New River, N. C., Quantico, Va., Fort Monmouth, N. J., Noroton Heights, Conn., and Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif. He embarked for Guadalcanal April 10, 1944, and served on Guam and Iwo Jima with the Third Marine Division. He has a citation for Meritorious Service on Iwo Jima and was honorably discharged at Pensacola Dec. 4, 1945.

⑤ RALPH CONRAD BRAUWN, Seaman First Class, Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. August Brauwn of Mandeville. He was born July 8, 1927, and attended Live Oak School, New Orleans, and Mandeville High School, entering the U. S. Naval Reserve July 28, 1944, at New Orleans. He was assigned for training to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, the Landing Craft School (PAC), and the Amphibious Training Base Landing Craft School at Oceanside, Calif. On Feb. 27, 1945, he embarked for Hawaii with the USS Arenac APA 128, with which he served throughout the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations and fought in one major campaign. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with one bronze Campaign Star and World War II Victory Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge June 4, 1946, at New Orleans.

⑥ EDWARD AUGUST BRAUWN, EM 2/C, USN Seabees

Son of Mr. and Mrs. August Brauwn of Mandeville and husband of Shirley Mae Brauwn of Mandeville. He was born Nov. 17, 1924, and attended Live Oak and Our Lady of Good Counsel Schools, Redemptorist School, S. J. Peters and Mandeville High Schools. Entering the U. S. Naval Construction Battalions (Seabees) on July 23, 1943, at New Orleans, he went to Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., Camp Endicott, Davisville, R. I., Camp Parks and Port Hueneme, Calif., for military training. He embarked June 9, 1944, for Pearl Harbor and served on Tinian in the Mariana Islands and Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon and was honorably discharged Dec. 20, 1945, at New Orleans.

⑦ LESTER CHARLES GLOCKNER,

Steward's Mate 2/C, Maritime Service

Charles is the son of Mrs. Roe Eugenie Hennerich of Mandeville, La. He was born Dec. 28, 1928, and at the time of his joining the Merchant Marine he was a student at Mandeville High School. He entered service July 10, 1945, at New Orleans, and was later assigned to Sheepshead Bay, N. Y. His service with the U. S. Maritime Service at this writing was not terminated. He was continuing to serve with New York as the port of his shipments.

⑧ ROGER NOBLE SALTER, JR.,

Staff Sergeant, Infantry, AUS

Son of Roger Noble and Ruth Collins Salter, 611 Rutland Street, Covington. He was born March 12, 1923, and attended St. Peter School, St. Paul's College, and Southeastern Louisiana College. Entering the Army Feb. 4, 1943, he served with the famed 86th (Black Hawk) Division, Co. L, 342nd Infantry, at Camps Howze, Livingston, Cooke, San Luis Obispo, Callan, and Gruber, embarking for the European Theater Feb. 19, 1945, and the Pacific Aug. 21, 1945. He served in France, Germany, Austria and the Philippines and has the Bronze Star for successfully clearing a wooded area, enabling his company to advance in open terrain near Bonzel, Germany, April 10, 1945, the Combat Infantry Badge, American Theater Medal, EAMETO Ribbon with stars for the Rhineland and Central Europe, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct and Victory Medals.

⑨ CLYDE MORRIS FRICKE, Fireman 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Ethel Mary Fricke of Slidell, La., was born July 25, 1922. July 25, 1942, he entered the armed forces at New Orleans and later was stationed at San Diego, Calif., and Camp Perry, Va. He departed for Dutch Harbor in September, 1942, and served on the USS Eucalyptus and the USS Earle. He participated in the campaigns on Attu and Okinawa. Clyde received his discharge July 26, 1946, at Shoemaker, Calif.

⑩ ARCHIE A. FRICKE, PFC, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mrs. Ethel Mary Fricke of Slidell. He was born Feb. 10, 1925, and attended Slidell School. Entering the Army of the U. S. on Aug. 6, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, he served with the Infantry at Camp Beauregard, Camp Adair, Ore., and Camp Patrick Henry, Va. On April 11, 1944, he went to North Africa and served also in Italy and Greece. He went from North Africa to Italy where he fought in the Campaigns of Rome-Arno and the Northern Apennines. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the Distinguished Unit Citation Badge, the Meritorious Service Unit Award, and World War II Victory Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge on Jan. 29, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑪ BERT J. FRICKE, S/Sgt., Army

Son of Mrs. Ethel Mary Fricke of Slidell. He was born Sept. 3, 1920, and attended Slidell School. Entering the Army on June 18, 1940, in the Infantry at Montgomery, Ala., he served at Fort Benning and Camp Gordon, Ga., Fort Dix, N. J., Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla., Fort Jackson, S. C., and Camp Kilmer, N. J., from which he embarked Jan. 6, 1944, for the European Theater. He served in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany and fought in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes, and Central Europe. Staff Sgt. Fricke was awarded the Purple Heart Nov. 18, 1944, at a hospital in England, the Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with four bronze Campaign Stars, and the American Defense Service Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge Aug. 19, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑫ NUMA MARADEC HEBERT, Staff Sergeant, Army

Husband of Florelle d'Aquin Hebert, Covington, and son of Leon Hebert and Harriet Deschapelles. He was born June 26, 1917, and attended St. Peter's and Lyon High School, being part owner and operator of a dry cleaning establishment in Covington. Entering the Army March 26, 1943, he served at Camp Francis E. Warren, Wyo., going to Oahu in the Hawaiian Islands, and serving also at Kahaku Air Base on Leyte in the Philippines and Naha, capital city of Okinawa. Assigned to duty as mess sergeant, he set up kitchens and supplied food rations at each station. He was in combat in the Philippines and Okinawa Campaigns, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with three Campaign Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged January 11, 1946.

⑬ FENNER (ABIE) J. LACROIX, Corporal, Artillery

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Emile J. Lacroix, Covington, La. He was born Sept. 23, 1923, and is a graduate of Lyon High School. Prior to his service in the Army he worked as welder with Higgins, Inc., New Orleans. He entered service Nov. 18, 1942, and received training at Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and Camp Breckinridge, Ky., as machine gunner. He sailed for England Nov. 15, 1944, and later saw duty in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany in the same capacity of machine gunner. Cpl. Lacroix participated in the campaigns of Central Europe, Rhineland, and Ardennes for which he was awarded three battle stars and Arms of Colmar (France). At this writing he was continuing to serve with the Army.

⑭ WARREN E. HENDRY, T/Sgt., Air Forces

Fought as combat infantry with the 27th Bombardment Group until Bataan surrendered April 9, 1942, then took to the hills where he hid for six months, then fought with various guerrilla troops and was made captain of a Filipino guerrilla force, returning to the Army as General MacArthur landed on Japan. Son of Marcus E. Hendry of Madisonville, he attended Roseland, Ponchatoula, and Amite High Schools and entered the Air Corps in October, 1939, serving at Lowry Field, Denver, Col., Barksdale Field, and Savannah Air Base, Ga. He went to the Philippines in November, 1941, and flew as a gunner until the siege and fall of Bataan. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon (two stars), American Defense Ribbon (one star), Philippine Defense and Liberation Ribbons (one star), Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, and Presidential Citation with five Clusters.

⑮ CLAUDE EARL HENDRY, Paratrooper, AUS

Son of Mr. Marcus E. Hendry of Madisonville. He attended Ponchatoula and Lyon High Schools, the latter at Covington, and entered the Army in the Parachute Infantry April 18, 1944, serving at Camp Beauregard and Camp Shelby, the Parachute Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., Camp Mackall, N. C., and Fort Ord, Calif. On May 14, 1945, he embarked for the Philippines, serving on Luzon, in Manila and Lipa. From Luzon he went to Okinawa with the Paratroops and served in the Occupation of Japan, landing at Yokohama. He was continuing to serve with the Army of Occupation in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater.

⑯ MARCUS E. HENDRY, JR., Cpl., Army Air Forces

Husband of Mary Jane Hendry, 272 Maple Street, Dayton, Ohio, and father of Warren Eugene Hendry. The son of Marcus E. Hendry, Madisonville, he was with Louisiana Cypress Lumber Co. Entering the Air Forces Jan. 14, 1941, at Montgomery, Ala., he served at MacDill Field, Fla.; Barksdale Field; Fort Myers AAB, Fla.; Drance Field No. 2, Lakeland, Fla.; Fort Dix, N. J., and Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio. On July 16, 1942, he went to Suez, Egypt, and served at Haifa, Palestine, El Kabrit and Tobruk, Egypt; Bengasi, Libya; Tunis, Tunisia; Brindisi, Manduria, Lecce, and Naples, Italy, with the 66th Bombardment Squadron, 44th Bombardment Group, the 343rd Bombardment Squadron, 98th Group, and the 4000th AAF Base Unit. He fought in Egypt-Libya, the Air Offensive over Europe, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, and Rome-Arno, and has the Good Conduct and American Defense Service Medals, European Theater Ribbon with six stars, American Theater and Victory Medals, and Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster.

⑰ LESTER (PETE) LACROIX, Private, Army

Husband of Valentine Susan and father of Marietta Althea and Sylvia Louise, 1115 26th Street, Covington, La. He was born July 9, 1916, son of Mr. and Mrs. Emile J. Lacroix, Covington, and graduated from Lyon High School. Prior to his service with the Army he worked as welder with the Higgins Aircraft Plant. He entered service May 29, 1945, at New Orleans, La., and later received training at Camp Chaffee, Ark.; Camp Livingston, La., and Chanute Field, Ill. He was not chosen for overseas duty before he received his honorable discharge Feb. 9, 1946, at Maxwell Field, Ala.

⑱ LEX ROGERS, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Henry Rogers of Bogalusa, La. He was born Nov. 13, 1922. Lex is the husband of Frances Nell McMongery Rogers and father of Larry Lex. He entered the armed forces on Jan. 1, 1940, and served as a master gunner in the China-Burma-India Theatre.

(N. M. I. A.)

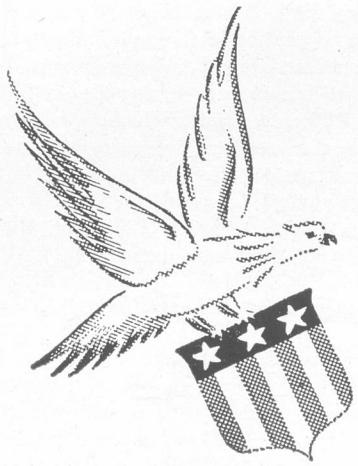
⑲ CHARLES HENRY ROGERS, JR., Lieut., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Henry Rogers of Bogalusa, La. Born April 24, 1918; entered the armed forces in 1942 after completion of his education in Bogalusa. He served overseas in the European Theater of Operations where he participated in several campaigns. Lieutenant Rogers is the recipient of the Purple Heart which he received in 1945.

⑳ JAMES MELVIN ROGERS, Captain, Marine Corps

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Henry Rogers of Bogalusa, La. He was born Jan. 15, 1907. After graduating from public schools he entered the Marine Corps Sept. 12, 1921, He served in the Pacific Theater during World War II where he saw service in several major battles. He is the husband of Rose Marie Rogers and father of Jimmy.





Charles T. Miangolarra

Colonel, Medical Corps, AUS

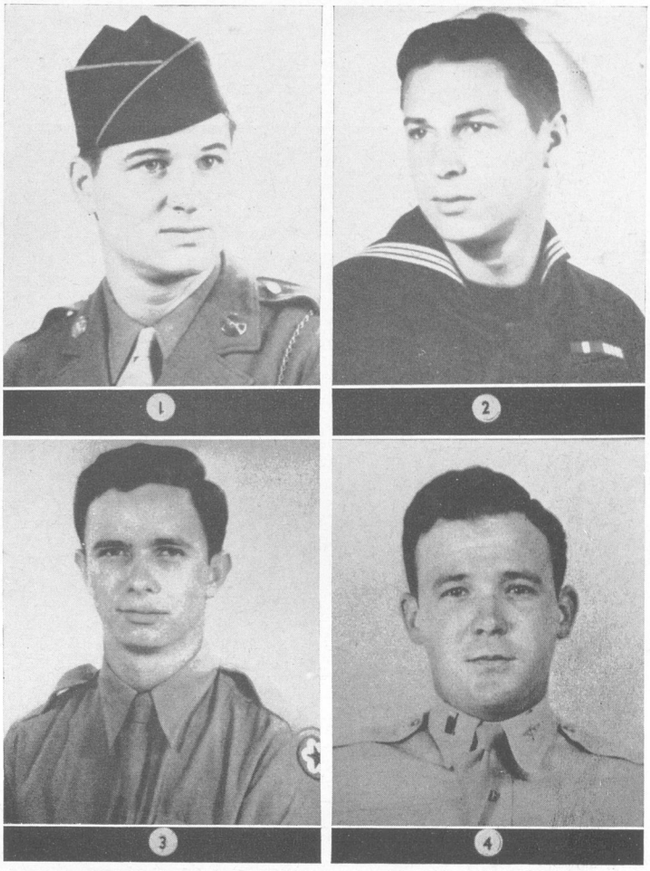
Husband of Virginia Galmiene Miangolarra, 4640 DeMontluzin Street, New Orleans, and father of Gertrude and Charlene Miangolarra. He was born Nov. 9, 1902, and is the son of Manuel Raoul Miangolarra and Manuella Trigo Miangolarra of New Orleans. A graduate of Tulane University (BS 1924, MD 1926), he was a surgeon in private practice and assistant professor of clinical surgery, LSU Medical Center. Entering the Army Medical Corps July 15, 1942, at New Orleans, he served at Fort Jackson, S. C., as chief of surgery, 64th General Hospital, serving in that capacity for 13 months of unit training, then going to Bizerte, Tunisia, with the 64th General Hospital with which he served as chief of surgery in Tunisia, North Africa, in Maddaloni and Livorno, Italy. He served as executive officer, 64th General Hospital, and commanding officer, 64th General Hospital. Colonel Miangolarra was in combat in the Campaigns of Rome-Arno and the North Apennines and has the American Theater Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, World War II Victory Medal and the Legion of Merit.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Roy L. LaCroix, Jr.

Staff Sergeant, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy L. LaCroix of Covington. He was born November 13, 1923, and attended St. Peter's School and St. Paul's High School, Covington. Entering the Army of the United States on March 18, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, he went to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., then returned for the Louisiana Maneuvers as a squad leader. Reporting to Camp Breckinridge, Ky., for overseas service, he embarked Oct. 20, 1944, for the European Theater, going to Liverpool, England. After combat staging in Wales he went to LeHavre, France. He served in Holland, Belgium, France and Luxembourg, assigned to duty with the Infantry as squad leader on a 57-millimeter anti-tank gun. Staff Sergeant LaCroix was in combat for a month and a half in the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest. When the drive through the Rhineland was resumed, he fought in the Colmar Pocket for one week and was wounded in action. He was awarded the Purple Heart in England on Feb. 25, 1945. He also has the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Ribbon and the Combat Infantry Badge. He was granted his honorable discharge (medical) at LaGarde General Hospital, New Orleans, on Aug. 8, 1945.



② William Ferdinand Lacroix

United States Coast Guard

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lucius Lacroix, Twenty-fifth Avenue, Covington. He was born March 1, 1922, and attended St. Paul's College and Lyon High School, Covington. He was a butcher by occupation prior to his induction into the United States Coast Guard on Aug. 15, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned to duty at Cameron Lookout Station, Cameron, La., on a Picket boat, and also served on Pilot Boat CGR 9000 at Cameron. On Aug. 2, 1945, he embarked for Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, and was continuing to serve in the Pacific area. All his overseas service had been aboard USS LST 1152 to which he was assigned to duty as a seaman. He was continuing to serve with the Occupation Forces in this capacity.

③ Barney F. Carey

Sergeant, Army

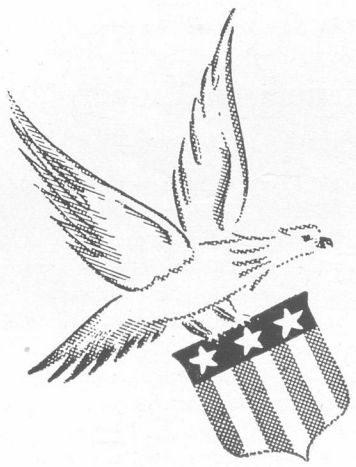
Son of Mrs. Marie J. Carey and the late Barney F. Carey, 1909 Jefferson Avenue, Covington. He was born Nov. 28, 1924, and attended Lyon High School at Covington. He was manager of Wholesale Beer Distributors prior to his induction into the Army of the United States on July 23, 1943, at New Orleans. Sergeant Carey served at Fort Custer, Mich., where he received training with the Corps of Military Police. He attended Ordnance School at Fort Crook, Neb., and served at Camp Beale, Calif., Fort Jackson, S. C., and Fort Bragg, N. C., assigned to duty with the Military Police. On Nov. 1, 1944, Sergeant Carey went to the European Theater where he served in Scotland, Wales, England, France, Belgium and Germany, assigned to Military Police duty. He was in combat in the Campaign of Central Europe and the Rhineland Campaign, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Feb. 3, 1946.

④ Joseph Alvin Champagne, Jr.

First Lieutenant, Air Forces

Husband of Mrs. Audrey Carey Champagne, 1909 Jefferson Avenue, Covington. He was born May 24, 1919, the son of Joseph Alvin Champagne of Covington and the late Mrs. K. O. Haga. A graduate of Lyon High School, Covington, he entered the Army Air Forces in April, 1942, at New Orleans. After receiving his cadet training and commission at bases in the Eighth Service Command, he went to Aloe Field, Victoria, Texas, assigned to duty as advanced flying instructor in Cadet Training. First Lieutenant Champagne served in the Army Air Forces in this capacity as flying instructor for two and one-half years. He was granted his honorable release from active duty at Ellington Field in Houston, Texas, on Oct. 11, 1945, after approximately three and one-half years of service.

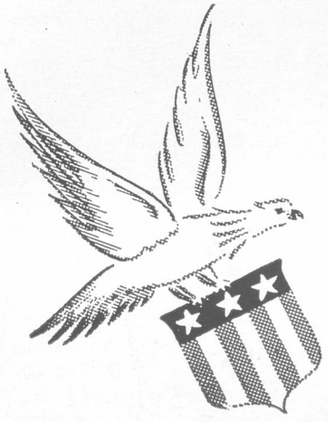


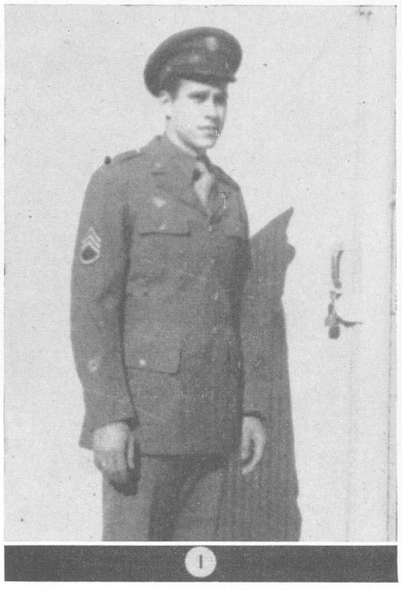


Erwin B. Garrett

Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Husband of Josie Diel Garrett and father of Pamela Ann Garrett of Covington, La. He was born Dec. 2, 1920, and attended the Poydras High School in New Roads, La., and Clemson College, S. C. Lieutenant Garrett enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Force as a cadet on April 22, 1942. Shortly after, he transferred to the Infantry and received his commission as second lieutenant at Officers' Candidate School, Fort Benning, Ga., July 12, 1943. He was then sent to Camp Wolters, Texas, for several months and later to Camp Howze, Texas, from where he was sent overseas. He served overseas in England, Normandy and France and was awarded the Purple Heart. Lieutenant Garrett was wounded July 26, 1944, in the Battle of St. Lo and died in a hospital in France on August 2, 1944. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. Stephen N. Garrett of New Roads, La.





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① Albert Jules Letchworth II

Staff Sergeant, Air Forces

Husband of Vivian V. Letchworth of Madisonville and father of Bobbie Jean Letchworth. He is the foster son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Menant of Madisonville, and was born June 25, 1921. He attended St. Catherine School, Madisonville, Lyon High School in Covington, Southeastern Louisiana College at Hammond, and Isaac Delgado Trades School, New Orleans. On July 2, 1940, he entered the Army Air Forces at Jackson, Miss. He served in pilot training on B-10, B-12, and B-18 aircraft at Barksdale Field, Shreveport, as mechanic and crew chief, and attended mechanics' school in New Orleans. He served at Bombardier School, as AT-11 crew chief, in B-24 pilot training as aerial engineer, in B-29 combat crew training as master crew chief, at Albuquerque, N. M. (Kirtland Field). Staff Sergeant Letchworth has the American Defense Service Ribbon, the Good Conduct Ribbon, the Airplane Mechanic's Badge, the Marksmanship Badge (.45 caliber pistol and 30 M 1903 rifle), and the American Theater of Operations Ribbon. He was honorably discharged at Randolph Field, San Antonio, Texas, on Oct. 23, 1945.

② Joseph Alfred Dupont

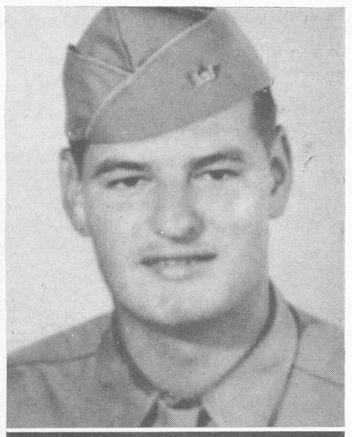
First Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Robert Dupont of Madisonville. He was born Nov. 6, 1919, and attended Covington High School. He worked as a welder prior to entering the Army of the U. S. on Sept. 13, 1941, at Camp Livingston. He served at Camp Shelby, Miss.. Fort Sill, Okla., Camp Barkeley, Texas, Fort Devens, Mass., Camp Pickett, Va., and Camp Patrick Henry, Va. On June 8, 1943, he embarked for North Africa. First Sergeant Dupont was in combat in Sicily, Italy, France, and Germany. He fought in the Campaigns of Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Alsace, and Germany. He has the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in the performance of duty in combat and the Good Conduct Medal, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with six Campaign Stars. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on Sept. 23, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



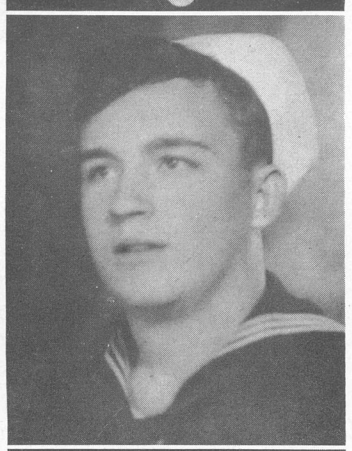
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① Lexie Roberson

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Huband of Yvonne Anne Roberson, and father of Kenneth Lexie and Richard Wayne Roberson, of Mandeville. He was born June 27, 1919, attended Cleveland (Miss.) High School. Inducted Feb. 18, 1941, at Camp Shelby, Miss., he received his training at Fort Barrancas, Fla.; Camp Stewart, Ga.; and served as Platoon Sergeant at Camp Miles Standish, Mass. On Dec. 9, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served as Squad Leader in England, Belgium, and Germany. Sgt. Roberson participated in the campaigns at the Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the European Theater of Operations Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ranzy Roberson, of Cleveland, Miss.

② Rudolf Flasdick Hawkins

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Louisa W. Flasdick Hawkins, of Madisonville, La. He was born Jan. 30, 1925, attended Lyon High School, and was assistant manager of a hardware store prior to entering the service. He was inducted at Camp Beauregard on Jan. 28, 1943, and received his Basic Training at Fort Belvoir, Va.; Attended ASTP at Georgetown College, Wash., and then served at Camp Chenango, Penna. On Oct. 13, 1943, he embarked from Camp Shanks, N. Y., for the European Theater. He served with the Combat Engineers in England, with the QM Corps in France, and after VE-Day he was sent to Berlin, Germany, with the temporary army of occupation. Sgt. Hawkins participated in the campaign of Southern Germany, and he has the European Theater of Operations with one battle star, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Meritorious Service Wreath. He is still in the service, but expects to be discharged very soon.

③ Alex Joseph Friloux

SSM 2/C, U. S. Navy (R)

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis John Grelle, Abita Springs. He was born Oct. 27, 1922, and attended Abita Springs and St. Francis de Sales Schools, the latter in New Orleans. He was a painter and decorator prior to entering the U. S. N. R. on Aug. 20, 1942, at New Orleans and went from the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego to the Pacific Area. Embarking Oct. 16, 1942, he served with the USS John D. Ford 228 on convoy service, the USS Hughes 410 in combat, and the USS Sebec AO 87, Supply Task Force Units. He was in combat on Attu, Kiska, Makin, and Tarawa. With the Sebec he was in the Western Carolines Operations, the Volcano, Bonin, and Yak Islands, the Southern Palaus Capture and Occupation, assaults on the Philippines, Okinawa Gunto, the capture and occupation of Guam, Northern Luzon and Formosa attacks, and the Operations against Japan July 1-August 15, 1945. He aided in rescue of survivors of the ill-fated USS Liscum Bay by the crew of the USS Hughes.

④ John Horace Rousseaux

Water Tender Third Class, U. S. Coast Guard

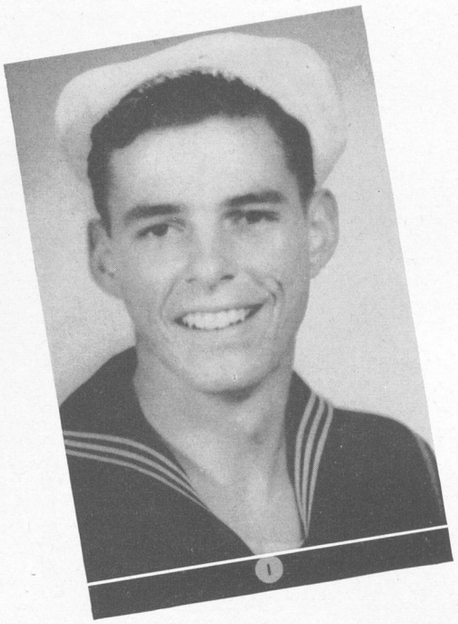
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey M. Rousseaux, of Slidell, La. He was born Aug. 24, 1925, attended Poplarville Junior High School, and was a welder prior to entering the service. He was inducted Feb. 15, 1943, at New Orleans, and received his training at the C. G. T. S., St. Augustine, Fla.; Naval Air Station, Norman, Okla.; Naval Section Base, Mayport, Fla.; and Coast Guard Training and Replacement Center, Alameda, Calif. On Dec. 3, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and assigned to the USS LST 168, he served at New Guinea, Hollandia, Leyte, Luzon, Mindoro, Balakpapan, and Okinawa, participating in the invasions of Lingayen Gulf, Malabang, Mindoro, Balakpapan, Okinawa, and the occupation of Japan. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans, on Mar. 26, 1946.

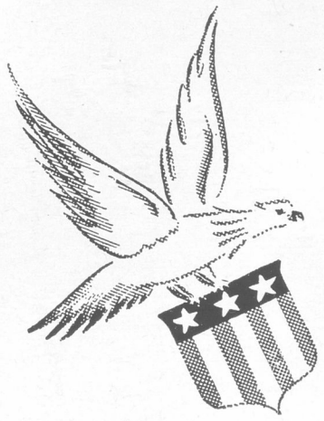
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

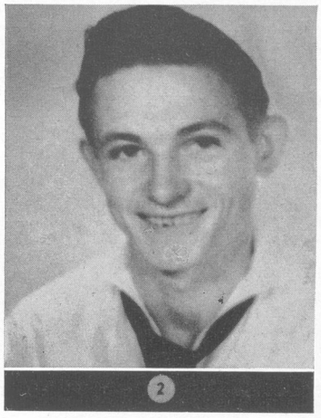
① Haller Alexius

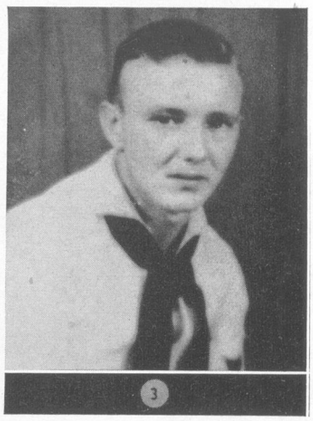
Mo MM 1/C, USCG

Husband of Audrey Lions Alexius, 1918 Louisiana St., Covington, and father of Paul Haller, Jay Clement, and Lee Stephen Alexius. He was born June 29, 1920, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Pierson Alexius, 1717 America St., Covington. He attended Covington Schools and Southeastern Louisiana College, Hammond, and Hemphill Diesel School, Memphis, and was a bank teller prior to entering the U. S. Coast Guard Oct. 17, 1941. He was at the New Orleans Training Station and served with Coast Guard detachments at Galveston, New Orleans, and Alameda, Calif. On Feb. 23, 1945, he left for Guam, and was stationed with USS LSM 425 from Feb. 23, 1945, to May 29, 1945. He was with NOB Navy No. 926, Guam, until Oct. 8, 1945. He was with the USS Fillmore until Oct. 22, 1945. He has the American Defense Service Medal, the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. He received his honorable discharge Nov. 2, 1945, at New Orleans.









② Eugene Charles Glockner, Jr.

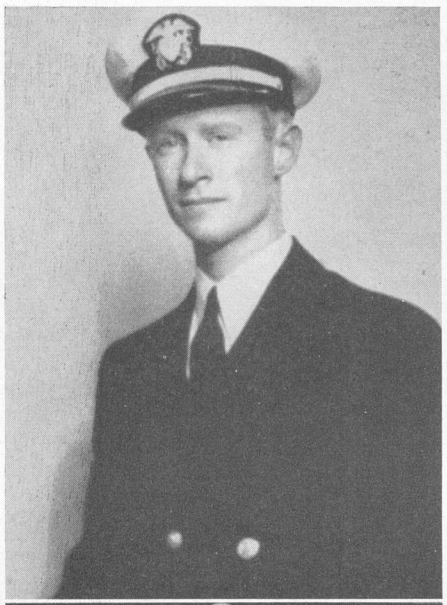
Fireman First Class, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Charles Glockner, Sr., of Mandeville, La. He was born Jan. 28, 1926, attended Mandeville High School, and was an apprentice machinist prior to entering the service. Inducted Jan. 6, 1944, at New Orleans, he received his Boot Training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., and further training at the Navy Yard, Bremerton, Wash. Assigned to the converted carrier USS Bougainville, he embarked June 18, 1944, for the Pacific Theater. His ship ferried planes from San Diego to Pearl Harbor, the Solomons, Marshall Islands, Admiralty Islands, New Guinea, Guam, and Saipan. He participated in the campaigns at Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. He is still in the service.

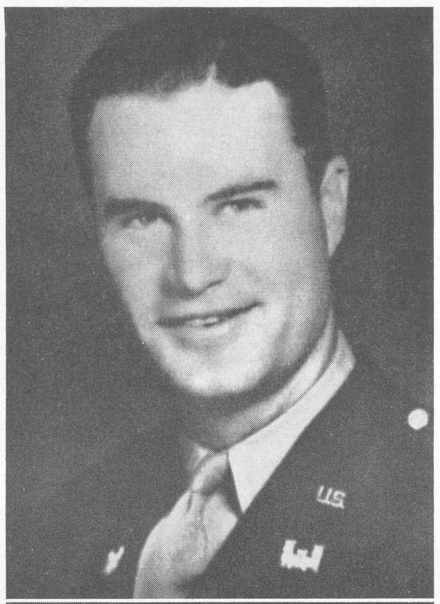
③ James Bernard McQueen

United States Navy

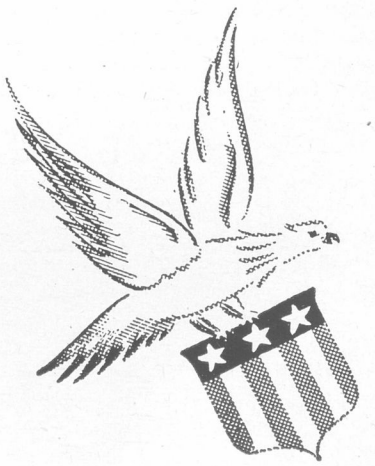
Son of Mrs. Lucille McQueen, Slidell. He was born July 18, 1924, and attended Slidell High School. He was in the employ of Curtiss-Wright at the time of his induction Oct. 24, 1942, in the United States Navy. He was stationed at the Naval Air Station, Terminal Island. He served in the Pacific Area aboard the USS Ajax as airplane mechanic with Aircraft Service Unit No. 2 at Barber's Point on Oahu, T. H. He was then assigned to the destroyer escort ship USS Darby and returned with it to the States. He was assigned to CASU Unit 33. He continued to serve in this capacity, and was given his honorable discharge Jan. 17, 1946, at New Orleans. He served for approximately three years and three months of unselfish devotion to duty in the American and Pacific Areas.



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① John Louis Smith, Jr.

Lieutenant, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Louis Smith, 517 Hancock St., Covington. He was born Dec. 18, 1919, and was educated at Covington Grammar School, Lyons High School, St. Paul's College, Tulane University, and Louisiana State University. On Aug. 2, 1942, he entered the Navy at New Orleans and went to the U. S. Naval Training Center at Camp Allen, Norfolk, Va., for indoctrination and training. At the USNTC, Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., he trained and prepared for assignment to duty with construction battalions, and was stationed with the Department of Public Works, NAS, Corpus Christi, Texas. On January 16, 1944, he embarked for Milne Bay, New Guinea. Later he was stationed at Saipan in the Marshall Islands. He continued to serve with the rank of Lieutenant, CEC, USNR, for the remainder of his active duty until April 30, 1946, and served also with the Department of Public Works, Naval Air Station, Corpus Christi, Texas. After almost four years in preparation and service with Naval construction battalions, he was placed on inactive duty in the USNR.

② Charles Perroncel Smith

Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred V. Smith of Covington, La., he was born Oct. 21, 1922. Smith attended St. Paul's College and the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn. Entering the Army March 6, 1943, he received his basic training at Camp Sibert. He was selected A.S.T.P. and transferred to Ohio State University for a course in Civil Engineering. Smith attended Officers' Candidate School at Ft. Belvoir, Va., and received his commission June 30, 1945. Lt. Smith departed September 29, 1945, for Manila and is at present serving with the Occupational Army.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Adrian Louis Guerin DuBarry

Corporal, Medical Corps, AUS

Son of Adrian P. DuBarry and Marie Elise Guerin, 1017 Nineteenth Ave., Covington. He was born Nov. 17, 1921, and attended Covington High School, entering the Army of the U. S. in the Medical Corps on July 10, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Camp Swift, Texas, as bookkeeper and medical technician with the Medical Corps and has the Good Conduct Medal, American Theater of Operations Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal, and Meritorious Service Unit Citation Ribbon. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby on Jan. 27, 1946.

② Edward Joseph Fielding, Jr.

PFC, Medical Department, AUS

Husband of Kathleen Anne Fielding, 1510 Janhcke Ave., Covington, and father of Kathleen Anne Fielding, Jr. He was born January 26, 1923, the son of Edward Joseph and Edith Schoen Fielding, 315 Jaufoid, and attended St. Paul's College and Louisiana State University. Entering the Army Jan. 28, 1943, at New Orleans, he served at Camp Livingston, Camp Cooke, Camp San Luis Obispo, and Camp Callan, Cal., receiving amphibious training. He embarked for LeHavre, France, Feb. 19, 1945, and served in France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, and Austria. Redeployed to the Pacific, he embarked Aug. 28, 1945, he served on Luzon, at Bataan, and on Leyte in the Philippines. He has the European Theater Ribbon with one bronze Campaign Star for Central Europe, the Asiatic-Pacific and American Theater Ribbons, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and Combat Medical Badge. He was honorably discharged Jan. 27, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Tex.



③ Faurie S. DuBarry

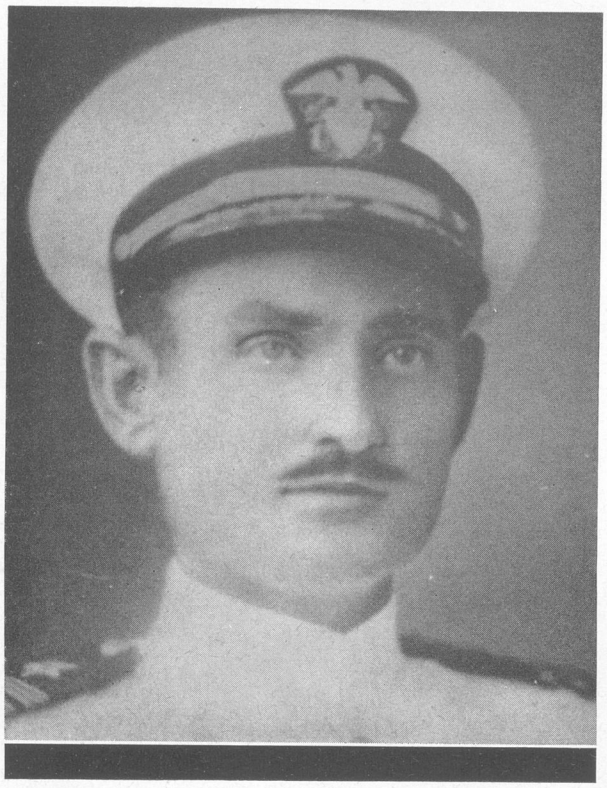
Corporal, Air Forces

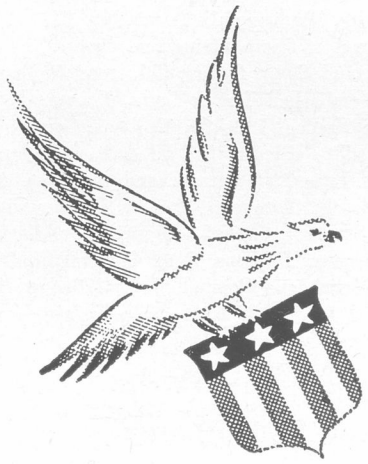
Son of Adrian P. DuBarry and Marie Elise Guerin, 1017 Nineteenth Ave., Covington. He was born March 3, 1923, and attended Covington High School, entering the Army Air Forces Nov. 17, 1942, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Keesler Field, Miss., Salt Lake City Army Air Base, Utah; Smoky Hill Army Air Base, Salina, Kan.; Peterson Field at Colorado Springs, Colo., and Camp Stoneman, Cal., assigned to duty as a photography laboratory technician. On Nov. 1, 1943, he went to Sydney, Australia, and served at Brisbane, going to Port Moresby, Finschafen, Nadzab, and Hollandia, New Guinea, Biak Island, Lingayen Gulf on Luzon in the Philippines, Okinawa, and Korea, assigned to duty as photography laboratory technician. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with stars for the Air Offensive over Japan, the Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, the Southern Philippines, Luzon, and the Western Pacific and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star, the Good Conduct and Victory Medals, and the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon.

④ Elster K. Oulliber

U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Elster V. Oulliber, of Madisonville, La. He was born July 18, 1925, attended Madisonville Junior High School and Lyon High School, and was a Draftsman's Apprentice at Slidell, La., prior to entering the service. He was inducted at Camp Beauregard on Feb. 16, 1944, and received his Basic Training at Camp Swift, Texas. He then served as Mortar Gunner at Fort Dix, N. J., and Camp Kilmer, N. J. On Sept. 11, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and served in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany, as Mortar Gunner. He took part in the fighting in the Siegfried Line in the Ninth Army Sector, and in the battles of the Ruhr, Rhineland, and the pursuit of the German Armies to the Elbe. He has the Good Conduct Medal, and the European Theater of Operations Medal with two battle stars. He is still in the service.



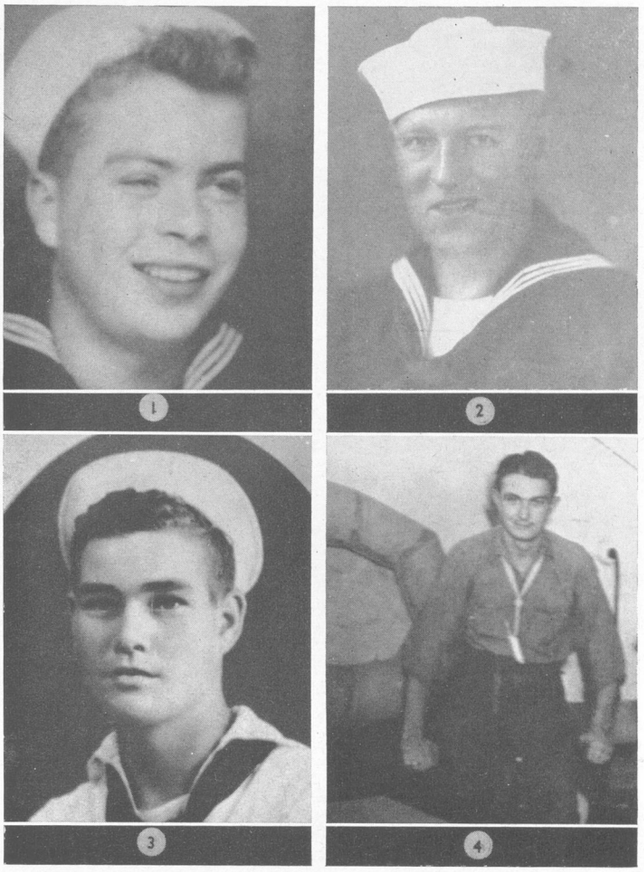


Howard William Taylor

Captain, U. S. Navy

Husband of Betty Wall Taylor, 712 Genessee Avenue, Annapolis, Md. The Taylors have three children, Richard Lee, Howard William, Jr., and Susan Emilie. After graduating from schools in Slidell and Louisiana State University, Captain Taylor was a member of the Class of 1927 at the United States Naval Academy. Entering the service as a midshipman July 2, 1923, he has been assigned to the USS New Mexico, USS Ludlow, USS Gamble, USS Ramapo, USS Colorado, USS Breese, USS Dent, USS Allen, USS Ringgold, USS Gwin, USS Omaha, USS Dayton and to the Headquarters Ninth Naval District, Great Lakes, Ill., Navy Department. As a naval officer he saw service in China and the Philippines. Convoy duty in the North Atlantic, anti-submarine duty and the destruction of German blockade-runners in the South Atlantic, preceded the Invasion of Southern France in 1944 with the USS Omaha. Then came duty with Task Forces 38 and 58 in the Philippines and off Japan with the USS Dayton, in 1945. Captain Taylor wears the Bronze Star, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with Star, European Theater Ribbon with Star, and other decorations for the American Theater and Japan.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Paul Dominic Esquinance, Jr.

Fireman First Class, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul D. Esquinance of Mandeville. He was born Feb. 1, 1927, and was graduated from Mandeville High School on May 17, 1944. Entering the U. S. Navy on Jan. 29, 1945, at New Orleans, he went to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, and served with the USS Saginaw Bay CVE 82 and the USS Sargent Bay CVE 83. On July 17, 1945, he embarked for ship assignment in the Pacific. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon. He was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans July 16, 1946.

② Roy A. Hunewinkel

Ptr. 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Julius and Christine Hunewinkel, 2918 North Cicero Ave., Chicago, Ill. He was born April 2, 1896, and is also a veteran of World War I, having fought in the Campaigns of the Meuse-Argonne, St. Mihiel, and Metz. Of Madisonville, St. Tammany Parish, he entered the U. S. Naval Reserve in Jan., 1943, at New Orleans and trained at Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., and Gulfport, Miss., and Port Hueneme, Cal. In Nov., 1943, he went to the Pacific Theater and from the Hawaiian Islands participated in the Invasion of the Gilbert Islands at Tarawa. He has the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon for Tarawa. After hospitalization for six months at Honolulu he was honorably discharged at Camp Endicott, R. I., on May 25, 1945.

③ William Mathews Johnson

MM 3/C, USNCB (Seabees)

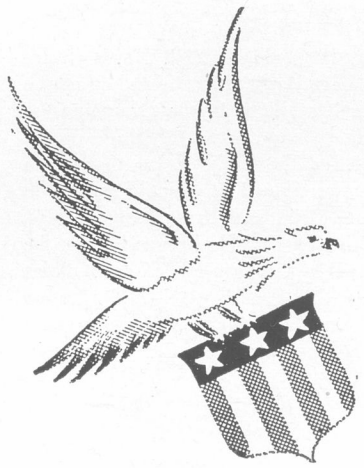
Son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Johnson of Mandeville. He was born Dec. 8, 1921, and attended Laurel, McDonough No. 1, and Redemptorist Schools. He was with Brown & Root Construction prior to his induction in the U. S. Naval Construction Battalions on Oct. 8, 1942, at New Orleans. From Camp Bradford, Va., and Camp Rousseau, Cal., he went to Pearl Harbor Feb. 8, 1943, and served on Maui, T. H., on Guam and Saipan in the Marianas and in the Marshall Islands, assigned to duty in construction work. He was honorably discharged Dec. 21, 1945, at New Orleans, after three years, four months and two days of military service.

④ Michael James Mugnier

Coxswain, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Michel Mugnier, of Mandeville, La. He was born July 2, 1924, attended Mandeville High School, and was shipfitter prior to entering the service. He was inducted at New Orleans March 11, 1943, and received his training at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif. In June, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, assigned to Task Force 38 aboard the USS Breton, an airplane carrier, operating from Espiritu Santo. Coxswain Mugnier participated in the campaigns of Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Bougainville, Kwajelin, Rabaul, Okinawa, and Eniwetok. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with six battle stars, the Expeditionary Ribbon, and the American Theater of Operations Medal. He is still in the service.





Louis A. Hebert, Jr.

F/O, Army Air Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Hebert, Sr., of Covington, La. He was born March 19, 1920, and attended Louisiana State University. Prior to entering the Armed Forces, he worked for the Coca-Cola Bottling Company. Louis is the husband of Caroline A. Hebert. He entered the Army Air Corps on June 5, 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)

① Joseph Walter Williams

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Eugenie Edna Williams, and father of Joseph Walter, Jr., and Eugenie Mathilda Williams, 305 South 18th St., Baton Rouge, La. He was born June 22, 1921, attended Alexandria High School, and was employed by the Civilian Conservation Corps prior to entering the service. He was inducted into the Medical Corps on Jan. 20, 1941, at Jackson, Miss., and received his training at Fort McClellan, Ala.; Fort Sam Houston, Texas; and Camp Ellis, Ill. On July 22, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served in England, France, and Germany, participating in the campaign of Central Europe. Sergeant Williams has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and the European Theater of Operations Medal with one battle star. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Sept. 30, 1945. He is the son of Mrs. Benjamin Franklin Clark, 911 Julia St., Baton Rouge, La.



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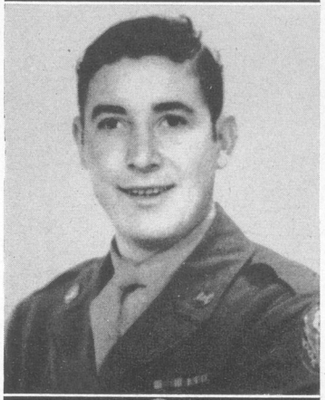


2

② C. R. Schultz, Jr.

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

Huband of Joy L. Schultz, and father of Cindy Lou Schultz, 1702 Wharton St., Covington, La. He was born June 15, 1920, and attended Lyon High School and L. S. U. Inducted Aug. 22, 1940, at Jackson, Miss., he received his training and served as Airplane Mechanic at Barksdale Field, La.; Columbus Air Base, Miss.; Blytheville Air Base, Ark.; Tyndall Field, Fla.; and Bluethenthal Field, N. C. On July 6, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater and served as Airplane Mechanic at Guam, Tinian, and Iwo Jima. Sgt. Schultz participated in the Air Offensive of Japan, and the campaigns in the Eastern Japansese Mandated Islands. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Nov. 26, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Schultz, Sr., 1618 Wharton St., Covington, La.



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③ Fenwick W. Stire

Corporal, U. S. Army

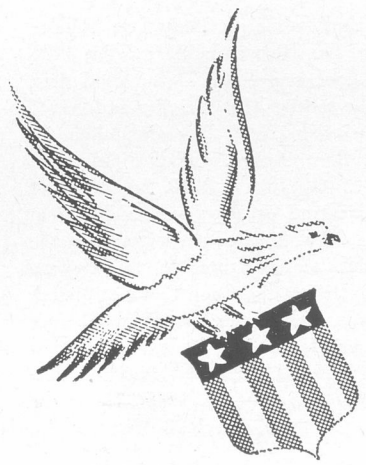
Son of Louis W. and Loretta E. Stire, of Abita Springs, La. He was born June 16, 1925, attended Lyon High School, and was employed by the American Brewing Co. prior to entering the service. He was inducted into the Engineers Corps on Dec. 3, 1943, and received his training at Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Camp Claiborne, La.; Camp Kilmer, N. J.; and Fort Belvoir, La. On Sept. 28, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served in England, France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, and Germany, handling Engineer supplies and equipment. Corporal Stire participated in the campaigns of the Rhineland and Ardennes. He has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on April 19, 1946.

④ Louis C. Stire

Master Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Forces

Husband of Genevieve Lemons Stire, of Abita Springs, La. He was born Oct. 7, 1918, attended Lyon High School, and worked as a Manufacturer's Agent prior to entering the service. He was inducted at New Orleans on Nov. 26, 1940, and received his Basic Training at MacDill Field, Fla., and Jefferson Barracks, Mo. He had additional training at Chanute Field, Ill.; March Field, Calif.; Fresno Army Air Base, Calif., and Oroville Army Air Base, Calif. On March 23, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater, and served in England, France, Germany, and Belgium, participating in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Air Offensive Europe. He has the Bronze Star Medal, the Distinguished Unit Badge with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the European Theater of Operations Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Oct. 5, 1945.





Leo S. Behrens

Captain, U. S. Army Air Corps

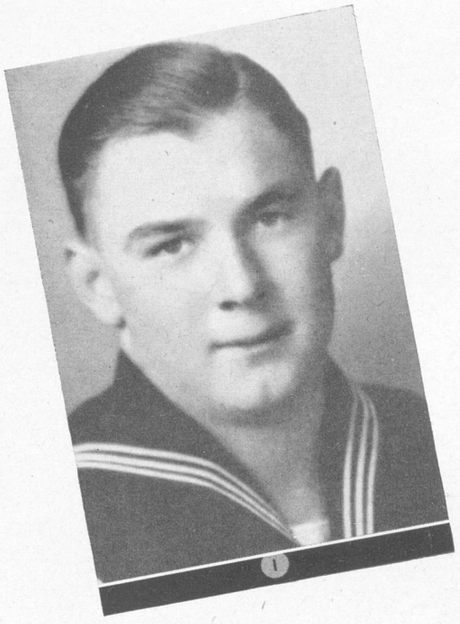
Was bombardier and squadron bombardier on duty with the United States Army Air Corps in China. Captain Behrens, whose home is Madisonville, was born Dec. 25, 1918. He attended schools in St. Tammany Parish and graduated from Tulane University in New Orleans. He entered the service Dec. 4, 1940, at Camp Beauregard. After virtually five years of service, Captain Behrens received his discharge at Camp Shelby Nov. 14, 1945. This gallant bombardier was awarded the Air Medal with one Cluster and the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster for his long and devoted service as a bombardier on duty with the American Air Forces in China. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanford Behrens of Madisonville.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Leland A. Lester

S1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis R. Lester of Covington, La., he was born June 11, 1926. He attended the Lyon High School and prior to entering the armed forces, on Feb. 11, 1944, he worked for the Louisiana Power and Light Co. (N. M. I. A.)



② Hawley Denman Williams

Private First Class, AUS

Son of Mrs. Aner Williams of Folsom. He was born March 26, 1920, and attended Folsom School. Entering the U. S. Army in the Chemical Warfare Service June 13, 1942, at Camp Livingston, he went to Camp Wolters, Texas, for basic training and served at Fort Bliss, Texas, throughout the Louisiana Maneuvers, and at Camp Swift, Texas, as assistant gunner with a Mortar Crew. He embarked for the Pacific Area June 27, 1943, and fought in the Campaigns of the Solomon Islands and the Philippine Islands as assistant gunner with a Mortar Crew and also as a Browning Automatic Rifleman. He was in combat in the Consolidation of the Northern Solomons and on Luzon, and has the Purple Heart for wounds received in action against the enemy on March 14, 1944, in the Solomon Islands. He also has the Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with a Bronze Campaign Star and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one bronze star. He was honorably discharged under the demobilization system on Oct. 11, 1945, at Camp Beale, Calif.





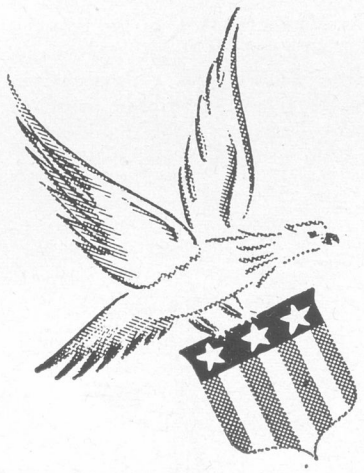


③ Robert Francis Walder

Master Sergeant, Ordnance

Husband of Elva P. Walder of Mandeville and father of Robert Keith Walder. He was born Oct. 17, 1911, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Walder, 5020 Burgundy St., New Orleans, and attended Our Lady of the Lake Parochial School. He was a clerk and mechanic prior to entering the Army in Ordnance on March 28, 1941. He served at Camp Blanding, Fla., Fort Moultrie, S. C., Camp Bowie, Texas, Camp Perry, Ohio, (Erie Proving Ground), and Camp Kilmer, N. J., in artillery and automotive mechanics and aircraft armament. On Feb. 7, 1945, he embarked for Liverpool and served in Aachen, Germany, as repair engineer on heavy equipment used in the famed breakthrough to the Rhine, at Cologne and Remagen Bridgehead. Redeployed to the Pacific, he repaired heavy equipment in the Okinawa invasion. He has the European and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbons with Bronze Campaign Stars for the Rhineland and Okinawa and a Unit Citation Ribbon for work in the Third Echelon Shops, New York Port of Embarkation, Camp Kilmer.





JOSEPH A. BLAU

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Blau of Covington, La. He was born Jan. 3, 1912, and attended the St. Paul's College. Before entering the Armed Forces, he was connected with Higgins Shipyards. Joe entered the U. S. Army in 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① James Theodore LaCroix

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Rena B. LaCroix, 1370 Gilman Ave., San Francisco, Cal. He was born Jan. 16, 1917, and attended Covington High School and Southwest Mississippi College. He was inducted at Camp Livingston, La., on May 30, 1941. He served with the Coast Artillery and received his training at Camp Blanding, Fla.; Camp Callan, San Diego, Calif.; and at Fort Winfield Scott, San Francisco, Calif. Sgt. LaCroix passed away on Aug. 8, 1944. He had served for three years and three months prior to then. He was the son of Mrs. Paul J. LaCroix, Senior, 1001 Twenty-First Avenue, Covington, La., and the brother of Lucius G. LaCroix.



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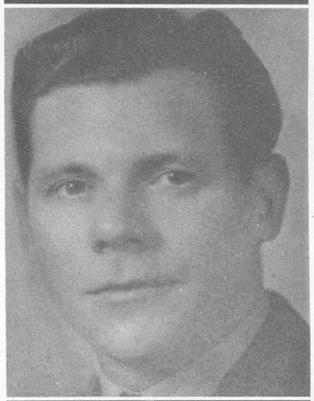


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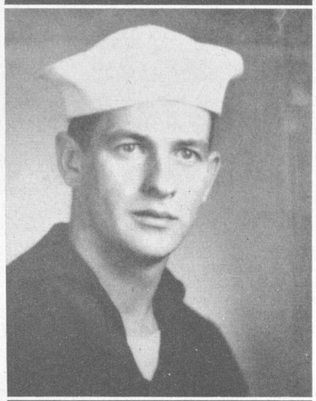
② Lucius G. LaCroix

Captain, U. S. Army Air Force

Son of Mrs. P. J. LaCroix, 1001 21st Ave., Covington, La. He was born Feb. 27, 1920, and attended Covington High School and Southeastern College. He was inducted Sept. 1, 1941, at Jackson, Miss., and received his training at Maxwell Field, Ala.; Dorr Field, Fla.; Spence Field, Ga.; and Dale Mabry Field, Fla. In Aug., 1942, he embarked for overseas, and he served with the 5th Air Force in Australia and New Guinea, and with the 8th Air Force in England, France, and Belgium. Captain LaCroix participated in the campaigns at Papua, New Guinea, Bismarck Archipelago, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe. He has the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal with ten Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Presidential Unit Citation. He is still in the service.



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4

③ Edward Dennis Koepp

Tec/Sgt., Air Forces

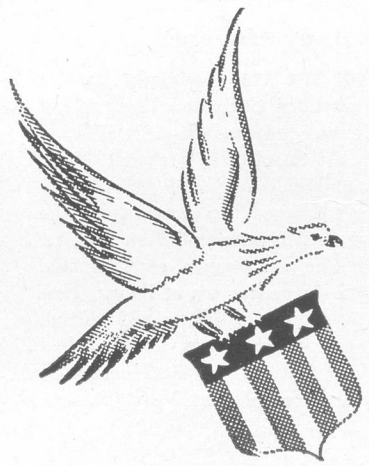
Husband of Mollie Grace Koepp of Covington and father of Dennis E., Mollie Jean, and Phillip Wayne Koepp. Born Feb. 22, 1918, the son of Mrs. Camille Koepp and the late Edward Anthony Koepp, he attended St. Paul's College and Lyon High School and was with Coca-Cola Bottling Company prior to entering the Army Air Forces Sept. 25, 1940, at New Orleans. He served at New Orleans Army Air Base and at March Field, Cal. On Oct. 12, 1943, he embarked for Homamea in the Ellice Islands from which he served on Tarawa and Makin Island, Kwajalein Atoll, Roi, Saipan, and Oahu, Hawaii. He fought in the bombing and strafing of Saipan and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct and American Defense Service Medals. Technical Sergeant Koepp was honorably discharged Sept. 10, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

④ Lloyd A. Koepp

Merchant Marine

Son of Mrs. Camille Koepp, 920 Twenty-Second Ave., Covington. He was born March 27, 1926, and attended St. Peter Parochial School, Covington and Lyon High Schools. On Oct. 11, 1943, he entered the United States Merchant Marine at New Orleans and was sent to the U. S. Maritime Service Training Center at St. Petersburg, Fla. On March 11, 1944, he embarked for Canada, Ireland, Wales, British Honduras, Panama, the Society Islands, New Guinea, the Philippine Islands, Borneo, the Molucca Islands, the Marshalls, and the Hawaiian Islands. He was in combat in submarine attacks in the North Atlantic, the Battles of the Philippines, and the Borneo Campaign. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbons with Campaign Stars and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Bronze Star. He was discharged April 9, 1946.

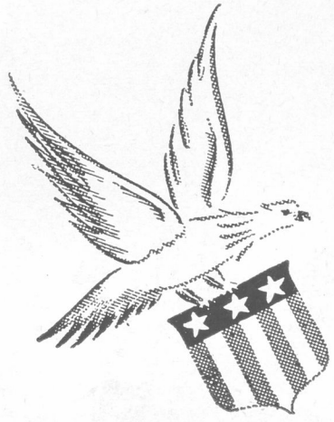




Maur Gabriel Snider

Captain, U. S. Army

Husband of Celia Berniece Snider of Madisonville. The Sniders have a son, Michael Lee. Captain Snider was born August 15, 1917, and in civilian life did clerical work and was field foreman of a California fruit ranch. Inducted Oct. 31, 1940, at San Francisco he saw foreign duty twice as an Infantry officer. From the Presidio of Monterey, Calif., he was assigned to Fort Greely, Kodiak, Alaska, and then to Camp Wheeler, Fort Benning, Camp Stoneman and Fort Mason in succession before going to Hawaii as executive officer of Anti-Tank Company, 160th Infantry. From Oahu to Guadalcanal as executive officer of Cannon Company, he saw action in three great campaigns, the New Britain Archipelago, Luzon, and the Southern Philippines. He wears the American Defense Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, and Philippines Liberation Ribbon. He was relieved from active duty at Camp Shelby Jan. 27, 1946, and returned to enlist in grade of master sergeant. Captain Snider was sworn in as a member of the Officer Reserve Corps with the rank of captain.





① JULES EDWARD WALDER

CC Std., U. S. Navy

Husband of Mrs. Beatrice Quave Walder, Mandeville, and father of Clarice V. Walder, Jules E. Walder, Jr., and John Earl Walder. He was born Jan. 12, 1913, and is the son of Mrs. Frances C. Walder, 5020 Burgundy St., New Orleans, La. He attended Our Lady of the Lake School and cook and bakery schools. On Aug. 21, 1942, he entered the U. S. Navy at New Orleans. He was stationed at Endicott, R. I., and at Parks, Shoemaker, Calif., prior to going overseas for foreign duty with the United States Navy Dec. 10, 1942. He was stationed first in New Caledonia and then assigned to duty at Guadalcanal, at Munda, in the New Georgia Islands, in the Green Islands, at Pearl Harbor, and on Okinawa. He has three major Pacific campaigns to his credit—the New Georgia Campaign, the New Britain Campaign, and the Okinawa Campaign. After three years and two months of unselfish service with the United States Navy, he received his honorable discharge Oct. 22, 1945, at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans.

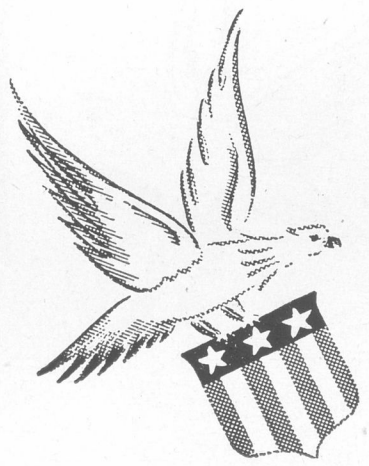


② EDWIN J. GALATAS

Chief QM, U. S. N.

Husband of Jaunet Pelloat Galatas, Madisonville, and father of Gayle and Edwin J. Galatas, Jr., he was born Dec. 2, 1916, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Galatas, 118 New Hampshire, Covington, and attended St. Peter's and Lyons Schools. Enlisting Jan. 26, 1938, at New Orleans after attending the U. S. Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Va., he was assigned to the USS New York as commander of the inshore patrol, Section Base, Cape May, N. J. He has served with the USS Anthony (DD 515), USS Essex, USS Lexington (CCD 11), USS Enterprise (CCD 11), USS Saratoga (CCD 11), and USS Essex (CCD 1). He served in the Gilberts, the Marshalls, and the Marianas, the Battle of the Philippine Sea, the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea, and the Occupation of the Philippine Islands. He fought in the strikes on Marcus and Wake Island, and the capture and defense of the Gilberts and of the Marshalls, in strikes on Truk, the Marianas, Wake Island, the capture and defense of Saipan and Guam, the first strike on Iwo Jima and Chichi Jima, occupation of Tinian and Guam and their defense, numerous strikes in and around the Philippines, support of the Okinawa amphibious operation, and numerous strikes on the Japanese Home Islands. He received his honorable discharge Sept. 8, 1945.



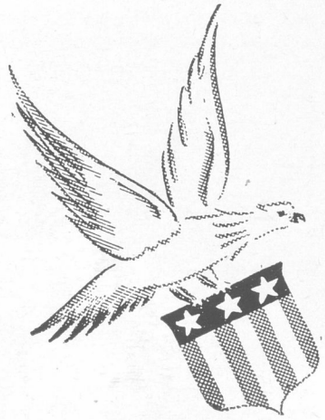


Warren Emile Frederick

PFC, Marine Corps

Killed in action in the Invasion of Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands. He was not married and was the son of Mrs. Margaret Frickie Frederick of Slidell, La. Private First Class Frederick was born July 28, 1923. He entered the Armed Services Jan. 4, 1943, at New Orleans, and was sent to Camp Elliott, San Diego, Calif., for training in the United States Marine Corps. Destined to take part in the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign in the invasion of the Japanese-held Island of Tarawa, he lost his life in the assault landings there. For his courageous part in this invasion he was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation and the Purple Heart, received for action July 18, 1944. The decoration was presented by mail to his mother in Slidell.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





1



2

① Charles Sidney Brandon Fuhrmann

First Sergeant, Army Air Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. C. S. A. Fuhrmann, 1615 Louisiana St., Covington. He was born Aug. 16, 1918, and attended Covington Grammar School, Lyons High School, and Southeastern College, Hammond. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps Sept. 16, 1940, at New Orleans, and trained at Barksdale Field, Shreveport, and was assigned to Savannah Army Air Base, Georgia, with the 48th Materiel Squadron under Captain Hall, with the duty of clerical work in Headquarters Department. In one year's time he became a first sergeant before going overseas Nov. 1, 1941, to Manila, Philippine Islands. When the Japanese struck Manila, the Air Force was destroyed and the survivors joined the Infantry in the front line until the surrender of Bataan, April 6, 1942. Sergeant Fuhrmann made the terrible Death March from Bataan to Camp O'Donnel. He has a Citation of Honor from Gen. H. H. Arnold of the AAF and from the President of the United States, commending his gallantry, heroism, and devotion to duty. He was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart. After the Bataan Death March the youthful first sergeant remained a prisoner of the Japanese at Camp O'Donnel, P. I., until his death June 22, 1942. He was most highly commended by his CO as a soldier and a non-commissioned officer.

② Essa Lewis Ard

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Eva Mae Ard, Slidell, and father of Essa Lewis Ard, Jr., he was born Jan. 1, 1921, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raney Ard, Slidell. Inducted June 17, 1940, at Slidell, he trained at Fort Benning, Ga., Camp Gordon, Camp Howze, and Camp Claiborne prior to going overseas Sept. 2, 1944. Sgt. Ard served in the European Theater of Operations as an infantry sergeant in Holland, Germany, and Belgium. In the bitter winter fighting in Belgium Jan. 12 during an attack on a German-held town, Sgt. Ard, who was operating a mortar gun to cover the infantry advance, with two others crossed an open field and took a building and fourteen Germans. Attempting to take another building, he was struck by German tank fire which cost him his life. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart for his heroic action. "The disdain for danger, aggressive spirit, and unswerving devotion to duty displayed by Staff Sergeant Ard present an excellent example of those soldierly qualities which are in accord with the finest traditions of the military service," his citation reads. The decorations so heroically earned were presented to his wife, Mrs. Eva Mae Ard.

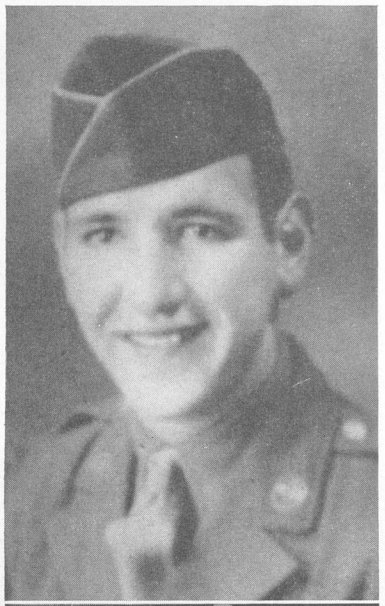
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① LOUIS JOSEPH BORDES, JR.

Tec/4, Signal Corps, AUS

Husband of Shirley Camille Riemer Bordes, 2618 South Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, and son of Louis Joseph Bordes and Maude West. He was born Aug. 8, 1919, and attended Lafayette and commercial schools. He was a dairyman prior to entering the Army Oct. 14, 1942, at New Orleans. Sgt. Bordes served at Alexandria, Camp Kohler, Calif., Camp Crowder, Mo., where he attended Signal Corps teletype school, and Fort Jackson, S. C., assigned to duty as a teletype operator. He embarked for England Jan. 29, 1944, and served also in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany as a teletype operator. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe and has the American Theater Ribbon, European Theater Ribbon with five bronze Campaign Stars, Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was honorably discharged Nov. 20, 1945, at Camp Shelby.



② CHARLES JOHN RAYES, JR.

PFC, United States Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles John Rayes, 5407 Burgundy Street, New Orleans. He was born Sept. 12, 1924, and attended Holy Cross College (High School) and L. S. U. for one year prior to entering service July 29, 1943. Inducted at Camp Beauregard, he went to Amarillo Army Air Field for Basic Training, Chanute Field, Ill., for technical school, and Salt Lake City, Utah, on assignment. He also served at Rapid City Army Air Base, S. D., and Camp Myles Standish, Mass. On April 13, 1944, he went to Liverpool with the 398th Bombardment Group (H), serving in England as refueling unit operator, and in France and Belgium as an infantry replacement. In Germany he served as motorman with the 94th Infantry Division, and in Czechoslovakia with the same division, 376th Regiment, and with the 90th Infantry Division, 359th Regiment. He took part in the air offensive over Fortress Europe, and the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the Europe-Africa-Middle Eastern Theater Medal, a Distinguished Unit Badge, Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He continued to serve in the Infantry after V-E Day.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Laurent A. Charbonnet

Captain, U. S. Army

Son of the late Judge and Mrs. J. Arthur Charbonnet of Covington, La., and husband of Naomi G. Charbonnet, he was born June 2, 1919. Charbonnet attended school at St. Aloysius and then entered Tulane University. Prior to his enlistment he was employed by Standard Oil Co. of La. and Louisiana State Police Department. Entering the service July 9, 1941, he was assigned to Ft. Benning, Ga., where he attended Infantry OCS. He was then sent to Camp Edwards, Mass., as a company commander. Capt. Charbonnet departed Jan. 14, 1943, for Africa and participated in the Rome-Arno, North Apeninnes and Po Valley Campaigns. He was wounded near Mt. Fano, Italy, April 15, 1945. Capt. Charbonnet was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 3 stars. After more than 4 years of meritorious service he was discharged Jan. 5, 1946.

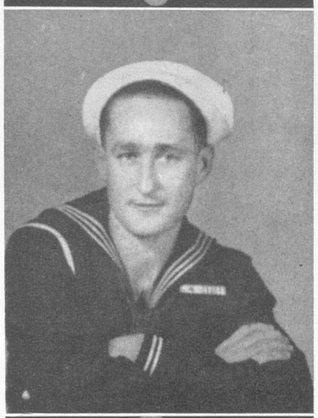
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② Helmuth Albert Thies

Tec/5, Ground Forces

Husband of Mrs. Phyllis S. Thies, 4205 Eden St., New Orleans. He was born Dec. 18, 1907, and attended Jackson School, then Warren Easton Boys' High School. He was an automotive service sales and parts man prior to his induction in the Army Ground Forces in July, 1943, at New Orleans. From the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Adair, Ore., he went to New Caledonia and served in the New Hebrides with the Island Command assigned to duty in Ordnance. He served on Guadalcanal with the 842nd Ordnance Company and on Luzon in the Philippine Islands with the same company. He was in combat in the Campaign of Luzon in the Philippines and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with bronze campaign star, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Ribbon. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on Jan. 26, 1946.



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4

③ Calvin J. Pepitone

Seaman 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. M. Pepitone of Cotton Port, La. He was born April 10, 1918, and is a graduate of the high school in Cotton Port. Before entering the armed forces, he was connected with the Delta Ship Yards in New Orleans, La. Calvin is the husband of Emelda Pepitone and father of James Joseph and Calvin Pepitone. He entered the U. S. Navy Feb. 17, 1944.

(N. M. I. A.)

④ Herman Daniel Sourita

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Sourita, 3134 Laurel St., Donaldsonville. He was born Oct. 23, 1924, and attended Donaldsonville High School, working as a plumber prior to entering the U. S. Navy Sept. 15, 1943, at New Orleans. On Nov. 22, 1943, he embarked for the Southwest Pacific and served on sea duty to Dec. 10, 1945. He was stationed at Naval Receiving Station 134 in Australia, and served with the USS Clyde, a tanker ship, in New Guinea and the USS Unicorn, cargo ship, in the Philippines. He spent 24 months in foreign duty with the U. S. Navy and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and the American Theater of Operations Ribbon. On his return he was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans Jan. 15, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





① James Thomas Garner III

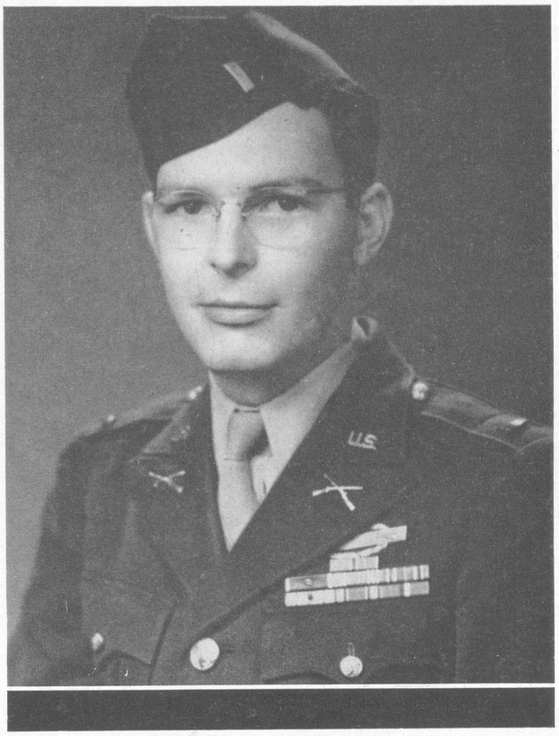
Corporal, U. S. Marine Corps

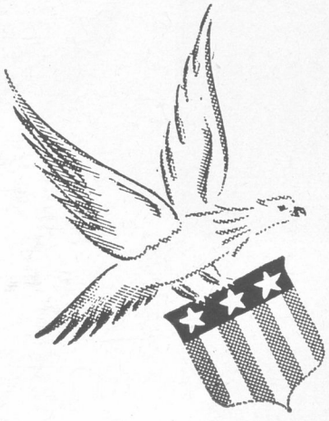
Husband of Marie Metrovich Garner, 2512 Tulane Ave., New Orleans. He was born Dec. 22, 1912, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Thomas Garner, the former of whom is deceased. He has a son, James Thomas Garner IV. He attended Our Lady of Good Counsel and S. J. Peters schools and Soule College. Inducted Nov. 9, 1942, he was assigned to the Marine Base, Camp Elliott, and the Base Guard Company, Camp Pendleton, all in San Diego. He served his country in the Asiatic-Pacific area March 11, 1943, to Nov. 11, 1945, in Australia, New Guinea, New Britain, the Solomon Islands, the Ryukyus Islands, and the Peleliu Group. He was attached to the 1st Marine Division throughout his overseas duty. He fought in the campaigns of New Guinea, Cape Gloucester, Peleliu, and Okinawa. He holds a Presidential Unit Citation for outstanding service beyond the call of duty. As a demolition and mine expert he destroyed hundreds of enemy-infested caves on Peleliu and Okinawa. He landed with the first wave of assault troops in every operation to take out minefields so that tanks and infantry could advance. He was honorably discharged May 24. 1945, in California.

② Joseph A. Gros

Tec/4, Air Forces

Husband of Louise Riemer Gros, 2103 South Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Nat Gros of Klotzville. He was born Dec. 26, 1907, and attended Belle Rose, Warren Easton, and Cohn High Schools and Loyola University. He was engaged in sales work prior to entering the Army Air Forces on July 11, 1942, at New Orleans (active service). He served with the 588th TSS, Third Air Force, as drill instructor and mess sergeant at Clearwater and St. Petersburg, Fla. He was assigned to the 77th Mess Sqdn, Third Mess Group, as clerk-typist and assistant to the inspector officer at Sheppard Field, Texas. On Jan. 18, 1944, Sgt. Gros went to Scotland and served in England as mail orderly and classification specialist. In France, Belgium, and Luxembourg he was French interpreter for the 1925th Ordnance Ammunition Company (Aviation), and in Germany served as personnel clerk with the Army of Occupation. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe, and has the European Theater Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged Oct. 10, 1945, at Barksdale Field, AAF Separation Base, with three years and three months of military service.



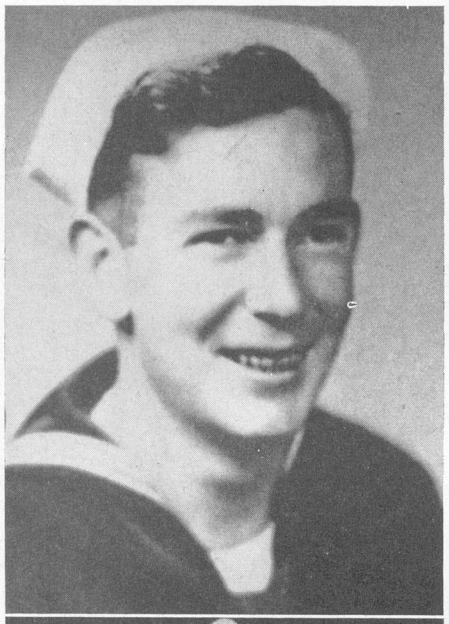


Wiley Hugh Billingsley

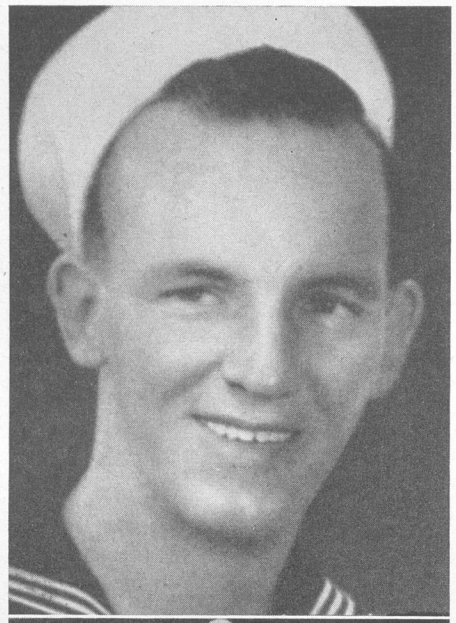
First Lieutenant, Infantry, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Patricia Faulk Billingsley, 2832 Eagle Street, New Orleans. He was born April 11, 1923, the son of Mrs. W. H. Billingsley and the late Dr. Billingsley, 2316 Broadway, and attended Thibodaux College High School, Thibodaux, and Southwestern Louisiana Institute, Lafayette. He was a student to the time of his induction Nov. 18, 1942, at Lafayette. He served at Camp Roberts, Calif., and LaGarde General Hospital, New Orleans (surgical technician), going to the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga., as an officer candidate. From Fort Ord, Calif., he embarked March 5, 1945, for Okinawa where he was in combat as platoon leader, Company K, 382nd Infantry, 96th Division. He served with Headquarters Third Battalion on Mindoro, P. I., as S-2 and with Headquarters AFWESPAC, Recovered Personnel Division, at Manila as adjudicator with Filipino guerilla claims. He has the Bronze Star for heroic action, Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster (May 20, 1945, and June 17, 1945, on Okinawa), Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct and American Theater Medals, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with Bronze Campaign Star, Victory and Philippine Liberation Medals.

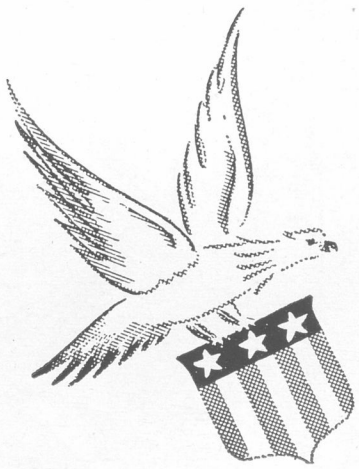
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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②



① Robert Neal Harvey

S 1/C, U. S. Coast Guard

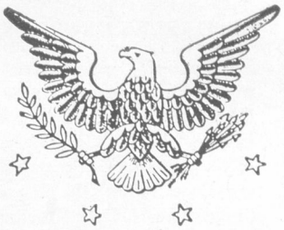
Son of Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Harvey of Jackson, La., he was born April 4, 1922, and attended McKowen High School and L. S. U. Entering the service Aug. 28, 1942, Robert received training at Galveston Texas, and Port Arthur, Texas. He departed in April, 1945, for the Pacific where he served on the USS L.S.T. 16. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and American Theater Ribbon. After faithfully serving his country for more than 3 years he was discharged Nov. 15, 1945.

② Arthur J. McCauley III

Fireman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur J. McCauley, Jr., of New Orleans, La., he was born March 16, 1924, and attended Redemptorist School of New Orleans. Entering the service May 30 at New Orleans, La., he was assigned to Camp Wallace, Mobile, Ala., and Norfolk, Va., for training. He departed Oct. 21, 1944 for Puertico. Arthur participated in the bitter fighting of the Admiralty's, Philippines, Kermoretta and Okinawa. He is the holder of the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, and Navy and Marine Bar. He was discharged Nov. 24, 1945, at Norman, Okla.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Charles Henry Austin

② Warren S. Austin

③ A. Peter Fortier

④ Donald Louis Fortier

⑤ Frederick A. Soule

⑥ Joseph Edward Soule

⑦ Wilbert L. Soule

⑧ Louis LeRoy Soule

⑨ William Miles Pearce, Jr.

⑩ William LeMonnier Peters, Jr.

⑪ Richard Louis Palmer

⑫ Carl T. Smith, Jr.

⑬ James Preston Furrate

⑭ Louis Clarence Furrate

⑮ Lionel Joseph Furrate

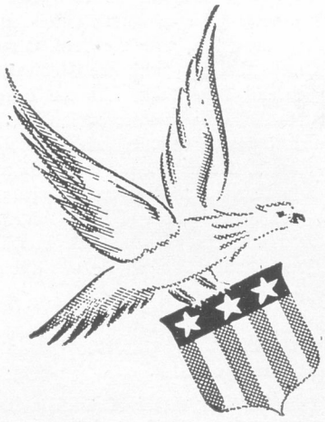
⑯ Ravis J. Tabor

⑰ Glen Joseph Calvert

⑱ John Charles Cervini

⑲ Leslie Stephen Luening

⑳ Irwin William Redding





① CHARLES HENRY AUSTIN, PFC, Army Air Forces

Husband of Carmen Alice Austin and father of Charles Henry Austin. He was born Jan. 20, 1924, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Henry Austin. He attended Live Oak and S. J. Peters High Schools, entering the Air Corps Aug. 27, 1943, at New Orleans. He served at Sheppard Field, Texas, Keesler Field, Miss., Greensboro, N. C., and Camp Kilmer, N. J., going to Europe March 13, 1944, to serve in England (Third Division) with the 330th Station Complement Squadron, at the assembly area in Mendlesham, and at Debach with the 330th Station Complement Squadron and the 420th Air Service Group (clearance clerk, control tower). He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon and was discharged Nov. 17, 1945.

② WARREN S. AUSTIN, Fireman 1/C, U. S. N.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Austin, he was born Aug. 27, 1926, and attended Live Oak School, entering the Navy May 6, 1944. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, he served in the South Pacific (Task Forces) with the USS Barnes CVE 20 and the USS Herbert Jones DE 137. He was in combat at Palau, Halmahera and Morotai in the Palau Islands, on Ulithi and with 38.1 Task Forces off the coast of Formosa, in the Marshall Islands at Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with five Bronze Campaign Stars, the Victory Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the American Theater Ribbon. He was discharged May 18, 1946, at the USN Personnel Separation Center in New Orleans.

③ A. PETER FORTIER, Corporal, Army Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Amilcar E. Fortier. He was born July 23, 1919, and attended Warren Easton Boys' High School and J. A. Maybin School for Graduates. He was with Railway Express Agency at the time of his induction into the AAF July 8, 1942. He went to Sheppard Field, Texas, for basic training, and to Truax Field, Wis., for Radio School, going to Patterson Field, Ohio, for further Radio training. From Nashville Aviation Cadet Center, Tenn., he went to Maxwell Field, Ala., as a pre-flight cadet, then to Hawthorne School of Aeronautics, S. C. Corporal Fortier served as a radio mechanic at Morris Field, N. C., radio mechanic and operator at Moody Field, Ga., and went to Kearns, Utah, for overseas staging, embarking from Fort Lawton, Wash., for Tinian in the Marianas as aircraft radio mechanic on Aug. 14, 1945. He also served at Luke Field, Ariz., as physical training instructor. He has the American Theater and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbons, Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was discharged Jan. 26, 1946.

④ DONALD LOUIS FORTIER, AFC 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Amilcar E. Fortier. He attended Francis T. Nicholls High School and Tulane University, entering the Naval Reserve Nov. 30, 1942. From the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, he went to the NAATC at Norman, Okla., for gunnery and to the Naval Training Center, Chicago, Ill., the Naval Air Station at Houma, La., and the Naval Air Station, Norfolk, Va. He also served at the Naval Technical Training Center, Jacksonville, Fla., and NAB 939. In July, 1945, he went to Guam in the Mariana Islands where he was assigned to duty throughout his overseas service. He has the American Theater and Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbons, and Good Conduct and Victory Medals, and was discharged at New Orleans March 7, 1946.

⑤ FREDERICK A. SOULE, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Elois (Frank) Soule and father of Frederick A. Soule, Jr., and Elois L. Soule. He was born Dec. 29, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Soule, and attended B. M. Palmer, Warren Easton and S. J. Peters High Schools. He was with Consolidated Parcels, United Parcels, New Orleans Novelty Company and Todd-Johnson Dry Docks, Inc., prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve on May 25, 1944, at New Orleans. He served at Camp Wallace, Texas, Camp Elliott, San Diego, Calif., with Carrier Aircraft Service Unit No. 5, at Coronado Island, Calif., and at Terminal Island, San Pedro, Calif. Seaman First Class Soule was discharged on Feb. 26, 1946, at Terminal Island, San Pedro, Calif.

⑥ JOSEPH EDWARD SOULE, ETM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Soule, 2640 Tulane Avenue, New Orleans. He was born Aug. 23, 1925, and attended McDonough No. 11 and Samuel J. Peters High Schools. He did maintenance work on electrical machines prior to entering the Naval Reserve on Nov. 19, 1943. From the U. S. Naval Training Station in San Diego, he went to the Naval Armory at Chicago and the U. S. Naval Training Station at Gulfport, Miss. From the NTS at Navy Pier, Chicago, he went to the Amphibious Training Base at Little Creek, Va. After electronics and special tactics training at these stations he embarked with LSM Flotilla 14 aboard LSM 306, serving also aboard the USS Shangri-La CV 38, in maintenance of shipboard radio and radar. He has the Asiatic-Pacific and American Theater of Operations Ribbons and was discharged May 21, 1946.

⑦ WILBERT L. SOULE, Sergeant, Infantry, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Aldea M. Catanzaro Soule and son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Soule, he was born Nov. 2, 1923. He entered the Army Sept. 12, 1941. On Oct. 13, 1941, he went to Panama for training and served as a rifleman in Trinidad, British West Indies. Going to India, Sergeant Soule served as rifleman, scout and mule skinner in the China-Burma-India Theater, going into combat in the Campaign of Northern Burma with the famed Merrill's Marauders. He fought in the Campaigns of Northern Burma and the Central Pacific and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with Campaign Stars, the American Theater and American Defense Service Ribbons, the Presidential Unit Citation Badge, Good Conduct Medal, and Combat Infantry Badge. He was discharged Oct. 2, 1945.

⑧ LOUIS LEROY SOULE, Seaman 1/C, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick J. Soule. He was born Jan. 12, 1928, and attended McDonough No. 11 and Samuel J. Peters High Schools. He had worked with Consolidated Vultee Aircraft, Sears Roebuck and Company, and as a teletype operator prior to entering the Naval Reserve on June 1, 1945. From boot camp at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, he embarked Sept. 12, 1945, for the Pacific area where he served on Guam and Peleliu in the Marianas and the Palau Islands. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, and was granted his discharge after serving at Treasure Island, Alameda, and Camp Shoemaker, Calif., being released July 24, 1946.

⑨ WILLIAM MILES PEARCE, JR., Staff Sergeant, AUS

Son of the late William Miles Pearce and Eleanor Thomson Pearce. He was born March 25, 1913, and attended Warren Easton High School and Tulane University. He was an instructor of manual training in the public schools prior to entering the Army in July, 1941. He served at Fort Knox, Ky., with the Tank Corps, at Camp Polk, La., and Fort Crockett, Texas, with the Medical Corps, and at Camp Upton, Long Island, New York, with the Hospital Corps. In May, 1942, he went to Australia and served in New Guinea and on Guadalcanal, British Solomon Islands, with portable hospital units attached to the Infantry. He returned to Australia as laboratory supply sergeant. He is authorized to wear two Campaign Stars for participating in action in the battle area of New Guinea and establishing a beachhead at Finschafen. He has the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Aug. 20, 1945.

⑩ WILLIAM LEMONNIER PETERS, JR., First Lieutenant, Army of U. S.

Husband of Eleanor Pearce Peters, father of William L. Peters III, and son of William LeMonnier and Blanche Lemarie Peters, New

Orleans, he attended Jesuit High School and Tulane University (BBA). Entering the Army in June, 1942, he attended AAF Technical School, Keesler Field, Miss., and went to Biggs Field, Texas, as crew chief on a B-17. From Anti-Aircraft Artillery Officer Candidate School, Camp Davis, N. C., he joined the 508th AAA Gun Battalion at Camp Stewart, Ga. Going to the European Theater June 6, 1944, he trained in England for two months and served in France training infantry replacements. With the 19th AAA Group, XIII Corps, Ninth U. S. Army, he served in Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and Germany, and is authorized to wear the European Theater Ribbon with Battle Stars for the Invasion of France, the Battle of the Bulge (the Ardennes), and the Rhineland. He was discharged Nov. 30, 1945.

⑪ RICHARD LOUIS PALMER, Fireman 2/C, USNR

Husband of Elaine Bienvenu Palmer and father of Richard Louis Palmer, Jr. He was born July 4, 1921, and is the son of Joseph Palmer. He attended Thomas Jefferson and Delgado Trades Schools and was a machinist prior to entering the Naval Reserve Feb. 23, 1944. He served at the AATC, Point Montara, Calif., and the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, beginning sea duty aboard the USS Ranger on Dec. 15, 1944. He served throughout the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations and the American Theater of Operations. He was discharged Jan. 6, 1946, at the Naval Personnel Separation Center, New Orleans.

⑫ CARL T. SMITH, JR., Fireman, U. S. Navy

No information available.

⑬ JAMES PRESTON FURRATE, Commander, U. S. Navy

Husband of Elizabeth Therese (Hann) Furrate and father of Virginia Anne and James David Furrate. He was born Oct. 22, 1902, and attended parochial and private schools. He was a marine engineer and entered the Navy Oct. 18, 1940, serving with the USS Arcturus as senior assistant engineer and the USS Appalachian, Amphibious Flag and Communications Ship, as engineering officer. He fought in the Occupation of Iceland and Invasions of North Africa, the Marshalls, Guam and Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines, having the American Defense Ribbon with Bronze A, American Theater, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon (four stars), EAMETO Ribbon (one star), and Philippine Liberation Ribbon (one star).

⑭ LOUIS CLARENCE FURRATE, Sergeant, Air Forces

Husband of Cuba Lee Furrate and father of Monica Lee Furrate. He was born Jan. 30, 1919, and is the son of James Emile Furrate and Ursula Cassano. He attended Baton Rouge High School and was with the Heidelberg Hotel, Baton Rouge, prior to entering the Army Air Forces Oct. 5, 1942. He attended Airplane Mechanics Schools at Keesler Field, Miss., and Burbank, Calif., going to Topeka Army Air Base, Kan., and Clovis Army Air Base, N. M., assigned to duty as an airplane and engine mechanic. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct and Victory Medals, and was discharged at Camp Shelby Feb. 18, 1946.

⑮ LIONEL JOSEPH FURRATE, Tec/4, Infantry, AUS

Son of James Emile Furrate and Ursula Cassano. He was born March 13, 1923, and is a graduate of Baton Rouge High School, having been a file clerk for Standard Oil Company prior to his induction into the Army May 31, 1943. Sergeant Furrate served at Camp Beauregard, Camp Barkeley, Texas, Oklahoma A. & M. College, the University of Missouri, Camp Robinson, Ark., Camp Rucker, Ala., Fort McPherson, Ga., and Camp Shanks, N. Y. He went to Europe Nov. 15, 1944, and served in England, France, Germany and Austria in motor transportation. He was in combat in Northern France (St. Nazaire and Lorient) and has the American and European Theater Ribbons, Good Conduct and Victory Medals, Army of Occupation and Combat Infantry Badges.

⑯ RAVIS J. TABOR, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Clabair Tabor. He was born Aug. 5, 1920, and attended Redemptorist School. He was employed by Mercy Hospital prior to entering the Army May 29, 1939, at Jackson Barracks. He was assigned for training to Camp Shelby, Miss., Camp Blanding, Fla., Camp Sutton, N. C., and Camp Gordon, Ga. On Aug. 31, 1943, he embarked for North Africa and served in Africa, Italy, Sicily and France. This gallant soldier lost his life in France Nov. 29, 1944. He fought in the Invasion of North Africa, the Invasion of Sicily, Anzio Beachhead and Rome-Arno, and the Invasion of Southern France, and had four Campaign Stars on the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon.

⑰ GLEN JOSEPH CALVERT, Fireman 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Calvert of New Orleans, La., he was born March 27, 1926. He attended the parochial schools in New Orleans and also the Delgado Trade School. Glen entered the U. S. Navy Feb. 22, 1944.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑱ JOHN CHARLES CERVINI, EM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John G. Cervini, he was born May 25, 1921, and attended Warren Easton High School and Delgado Trade School. Entering the U. S. Navy Aug. 6, 1942, John received training at San Diego, Calif., San Francisco, Calif., and San Pedro, Calif. He departed Jan. 2, 1943, for New Caledonia and participated in the bitter fighting of the Marshall Islands, Gilbert Islands, Bougainville, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Caroline Islands, Philippine Islands, Bonin Islands and Okinawa and Palau. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Philippine Campaign Ribbon, American Defense Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. John was discharged Dec. 14, 1945.

⑲ LESLIE STEPHEN LUENING, Ship Fitter 1/C, U. S. N.

He was born Jan. 22, 1913, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Luening. He attended Gayarre and Delgado Trades Schools and was a construction worker, recreation supervisor, sheet metal worker and welder prior to entering the U. S. Navy Sept. 29, 1942. He served at Algiers Naval Base in ship repair work. He embarked March 6, 1943, for North Africa and served at Oran, Algeria, at the Amphibious Repair Base, at Arzew with LST 385, in Tunisia at Tunis and Bizerte, and in French Morocco at Casablanca in naval repair work. He did maintenance work at Navy Hospital No. 9, Oran, and was assigned to Amphibious Repair Base, Palermo, Sicily. He fought in the campaigns of Tunisia and Sicily. He has a Presidential Unit Citation for Tunis and commendations for Italy, Normandy, Northern and Southern France, assigned to LST 387 Repair Ship and making amphibious repairs in all the great amphibious invasions. He was discharged Oct. 18, 1945.

⑳ IRWIN WILLIAM REDDING, Painter 3/C, Seabees

Husband of Mrs. Irwin W. Redding. He was born July 31, 1916, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Redding. He attended Judah P. Benjamin School and worked in a service machine shop prior to entering the 73rd Naval Construction Battalion Dec. 21, 1942. He trained and served on guard duty, kitchen police and fuel cutter and attended Barbed Wire Entanglement School, stationed at Camp Peary, Camp Parks, Port Hueneme and Camp Rousseau. He embarked for Noumea, New Caledonia, May 12, 1943, and served on Guadalcanal, Munda, Banika Islands and Peleliu, unloading equipment, cutting trees for timber and in the construction of airstrips and taxiways, Quonset huts, roads, tank forms, entrenchments, chapels and motion picture houses. He fought in the Campaigns of Munda in the New Georgia Islands and Peleliu in the Palau Group. He has a commendation from the commanding general of the First Marine Division for action in the capture of Peleliu and the Palau Islands.



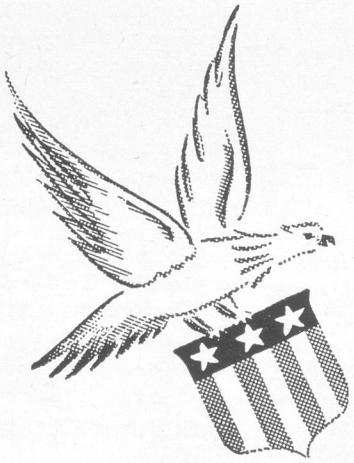
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① Mary Margaret Faught Graham

PFC, Women's Army Corps, AUS

Wife of William J. Graham of Baton Rouge and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman E. Faught of New Orleans. She was born July 12, 1922, and attended St. Mary of the Angels, Holy Angels Academy, and Loyola University, New Orleans, and was a pharmacist by occupation prior to her induction into the Women's Army Corps on Aug. 16, 1943, at New Orleans. She served at Daytona Beach, Fla., where she received basic training, and was assigned to duty at Fort Williams, Maine, and Fort Devens, Mass., as a pharmacist, serving in this capacity throughout her military duty. She has the WAAC Service Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal, and was granted her honorable discharge at Fort Dix, N. J., on Nov. 2, 1945.

② Sherman Elbert Faught, Jr.

Aviation Cadet, Air Forces

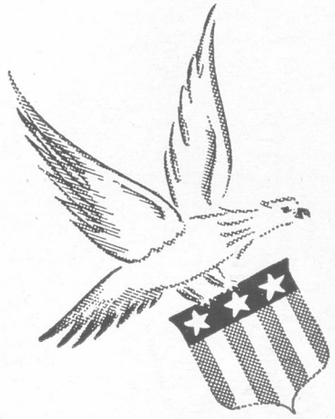
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Elbert Faught, 2526 Gallier Street, New Orleans. He was born Feb. 28, 1925, and attended St. Mary of the Angels, Jusuit High School, Francis T. Nichols High School and Louisiana State University. He entered the Army Air Forces on May 28, 1943, at New Orleans, and was sent to Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, for basic training. He went to Kent, Ohio, with the 336th College Training Detachment and to San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center for classification and pre-flight. He attended Army Air Forces Technical Training Schools at Gulfport Army Air Base and Keesler Field, Biloxi, Miss., going to Willow Run, Ypsilanti, Mich., for specialized mechanics training. He attended Aerial Gunnery School at Tyndall Field, Fla., and went to Westover Field, Mass., as engineer-gunner and line mechanic. From Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill., where he attended Hydraulic Specialist School, he went to Independence Army Air Base, Mo., as a hydraulic specialist. He has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal, and was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on Feb. 14, 1946.

③ William J. Graham

Tec/Sgt., Air Forces

Husband of Mary Margaret Graham of Baton Rouge and son of Mrs. Fedelia Graham, 2917 Dublin Street, New Orleans. He was born Oct. 5, 1921, and attended B. M. Palmer School, Warren Easton High School and Isaac Delgado Trades. He was a draftsman for the Texas Company prior to his induction into the Army Air Forces at New Orleans on Sept. 7, 1942. From Camp Livingston he went to Keesler Field, Biloxi, Miss., for basic training and to Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill., AAFTTC, for study of weather observation. Technical Sergeant Graham was assigned to duty as weather observer at Marfa Army Air Field, Texas, studied forecasting at Grand Rapids, Mich., and at Chanute Field, and served as weather forecaster at Frederick Army Air Field, Okla. On May 17, 1944, he embarked for Naples, Italy, and served at Foggia Airport, at Gioia Airport, and at Athens Airport in Greece as weather forecaster. He was in combat in the Rome-Arno Campaign and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with one Star and the American Theater Ribbon and the Good Conduct and World War II Victory Medals. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on Dec. 31, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

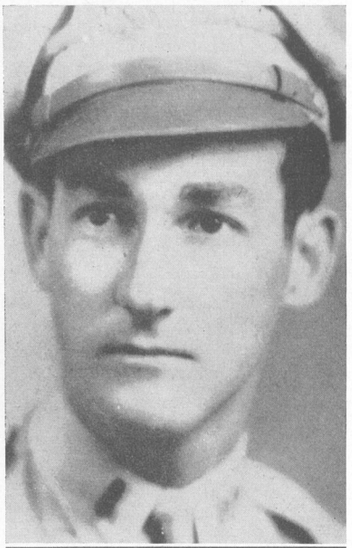




① FRANK H. BRIGTSEN

T/Sgt., U. S. Army

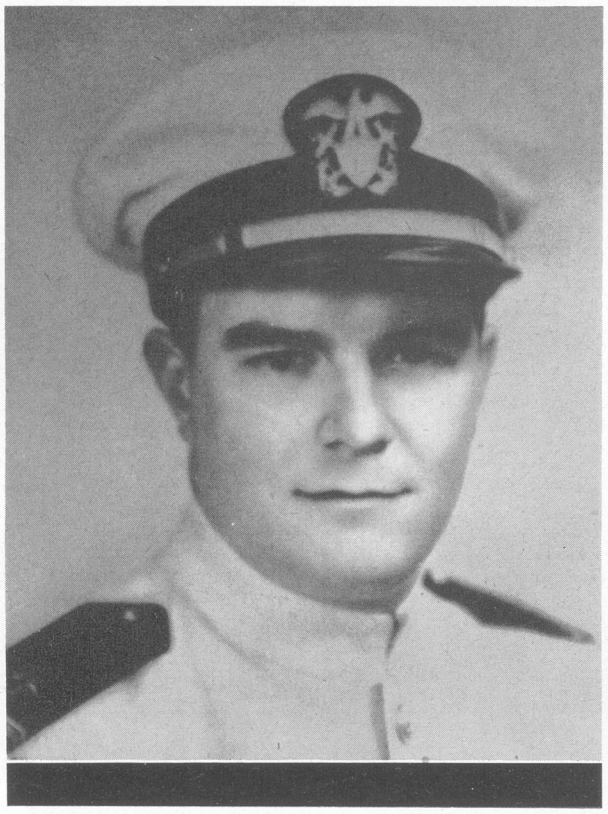
Son of Mr. and Mrs. William F. Brigtsen, 86 North Rio Vista, New Orleans. He was born Jan. 20, 1918, and was employed by the Federal Government, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C,. prior to his induction in Washington June 8, 1942. He trained at Fort Meyer, Camp Lee, and Camp Pickett, Va., and Camp Blanding, Fla., and Camp Forrest, Tenn. After maneuvers at Camp Laguna, Ariz., and Camp Phillips, Kan., he left Fort Myles Standish, Mass., for overseas duty with the 79th Division, 313th Infantry Regiment, on April 7, 1944. He landed in Glasgow and served in England, France, Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg, Germany, and Czechoslovakia as squad leader in his regiment. He fought in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe, and also in the campaigns of Alsace-Lorraine and the Vosges Mountains serving in combat with the First Army, Third Army, Seventh Army, and Ninth Army and also with a Free French Armored Division. He received the bronze star medal and oak leaf cluster for heroism in action against the enemy on two occasions, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern and American Theater Campaign Ribbons and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Nov. 2, 1945.

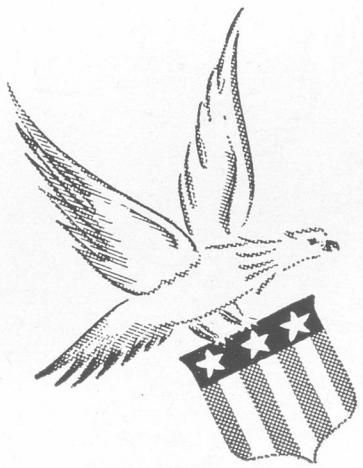


② JOHN SANBORN BECKER

Warrant Officer, AAF

Son of Leo Benjamin and Thelma Sanborn Becker, 210 Walnut St., New Orleans. He was born March 30, 1922, and attended New Orleans, Brooklyn, Washington, and Tampa schools. He was deck engineer, Standard Dredging Corporation, Whitney Bank Bldg., prior to entering the Army March 28, 1942. From Camp Shelby he went to Maxwell Field, Ala., Gunter Field, Ala., and Dorr Field, Fla., as an aviation cadet, then to Buckingham Field, Fla., and Gulfport, Miss., where he served with Rescue Boat units and to Keesler Field, Miss., as chief engineer, AAF Rescue Boats, Camp Kilmer, N. J., and New York Port of Embarkation, in the same capacity. On March 11, 1945, he went to Pearl Harbor, Oahu, T. H., with the 13th AAF Emergency Rescue Boat Squadron, Hickam Field, as chief engineer. He served in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Oahu and the American Theater on patrol duty in the Gulf of Mexico operating out of Fort Myers, Fla., and also has the Good Conduct and Victory Ribbons and the Merchant Marine Defense Ribbon for service with the Merchant Marine prior to Dec. 7, 1941.



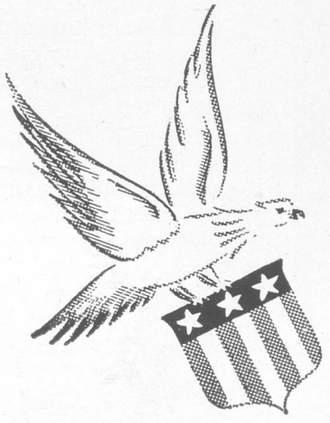


Termes Benoit Pierre Renaud de la Vergne

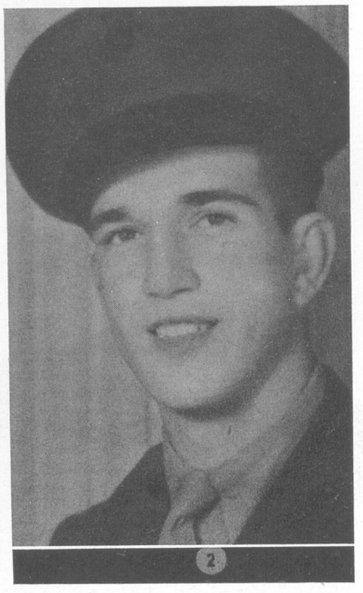
Ensign, U. S. Naval Reserve (Aviation)

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugues Jules de la Vergne, 5931 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans. He was born April 12, 1916, and attended New Orleans Academy, Springhill College at Mobile, Ala., Notre Dame University at South Bend, Ind., and Tulane University, having bachelor of arts and law degrees. Entering the United States Naval Reserve at Athens, Ga., in June, 1942, he studied Naval Aviation at the University of Georgia and was assigned for further training to the U. S. Naval Stations at Anacostia, Wash., and Pensacola, Fla. Ensign de la Vergne was killed in a mid-air collision over Pensacola Bay on his last test flight, May 20, 1943. His plane, a Catalina PBY, was loaded with depth bombs, searching for submarines in the Gulf of Mexico. The Supreme Court of Louisiana adopted the following obituary: "Like a meteor that flies across the skies, he came, he lived and like a hero died. In the brilliance of his eye and the radiance of his countenance there was reflected the grandeur of his soul. He slumbers in the free blue sea beneath a coverlet of azure skies, lighted by the tapers of the stars. He left too soon to imprint professional excellence upon the tablets of our association. But the Louisiana State Bar Association will ever cherish his memory as an example of how to live and how to die."

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA







① William Ellery Riecke

Private, U. S. Army

Husband of Rosalie S. Riecke, 1501 Independence Street, New Orleans, and father of Raymond, Kathleen, William, Jr., and Robert Riecke. He was born May 4, 1913, attended St. Theresa School, and was a tank tester for a shipyard when inducted into the service Dec. 11, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. With the Field Artillery, he was assigned to Fort Lewis, Wash., Fort Bragg, N. C., and the staging area at Camp Kilmer, N. Y., before embarking for England and overseas service Oct. 31, 1944. He served in England, France, Germany, Italy, the Alps, and Greece, and fought in the campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Germany with the Field Artillery. He received his honorable discharge Dec. 1, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Riecke, 4419 Ulloa St., New Orleans.

② Charles Herman Faust, Jr.

Platoon Sergeant, USMC

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Faust, 2649 Gladiolus St., New Orleans. He was born April 4, 1922, and attended St. James Major and Holy Cross Schools. He was a maintenance mechanic when inducted Aug. 12, 1942, into the U. S. Marine Corps. From the Marine Corps Base, San Diego, Calif., he was sent to Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Wash., for further training and to Camp Elliott, San Diego. He left for Dutch Harbor, Alaska, to take part in the island defense and remained there from Oct. 23, 1942, to Sept. 8, 1943. He was assigned to the 2nd Marine Division, Hawaiian Islands Dec. 23, 1943. He took part in the combat for Saipan in the Marianas Islands and then Tinian in the Marianas Group. Stationed at Saipan, he took part in the assault invasion of Okinawa in the Ryukyus Group. Finally he was with the Marines landing at Nagasaki for the Occupation of Japan. He was in action against the enemy on Saipan, Tinian, and Okinawa and was part of the occupation force in Japan. He received the Good Conduct Medal, Rifle and Browning Machine Gun Expert Gunner Badges. He was honorably discharged at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif., Jan. 1, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Lucien Hensley Bergeron

② Gustave C. Gehr

③ William Alfred Klein, Jr.

④ Karl F. Klein

⑤ Lise C. Gautreaux

⑥ Warren Joseph Gautreaux

⑦ Adolf Paul Gautreaux

⑧ Joseph Francis Gautreaux

⑨ Charles Emile Gautreaux

⑩ Earl J. Doucet

⑪ Eddie A. Doucet

⑫ Armand Francis Lambert

⑬ Dominic Anthony Messina

⑭ Maurice G. Schexnayder

⑮ Rene P. Schexnayder

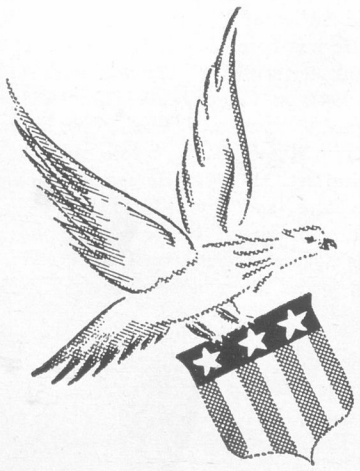
⑯ Calvin J. A. Breaux

⑰ Herbert G. Jones, Jr.

⑱ Anthony Bick

⑲ George B. C. Dangerfield, Jr.

⑳ Burton F. Ernst



① LUCIEN HENSLEY BERGERON, PFC, Infantry, AUS

Son of Lucien Joseph Bergeron. He was born Jan. 3, 1922, and attended Lafayette and Jefferson Schools and Tulane University. He was a clerk-typist at New Orleans Port of Embarkation when inducted into the Army Oct. 16, 1942. He served at Camp Beauregard, Camp Adair, Ore., Camp White, Ore., Fort Lewis, Wash., Camp Callan, Camp Beale, Camp San Luis Obispo and Camp Stoneman, Calif. In July, 1944, he embarked for Hawaii and served in the Philippine Islands as a platoon guide with the Infantry. He served in the same capacity in the action on Okinawa and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Oct. 18, 1945.

② GUSTAVE C. GEHR, Captain, AUS

Husband of Dorothy B. Gehr, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Gordon Gehr. He attended Fortier High and Springhill College and entered the National Guard in 1937, called to active duty Nov. 25, 1940. From Camp Blanding and Camp Bowie he embarked Sept. 25, 1942, for England, and served as unit commander, infantry instructor, supply officer, anti-tank commander, special service officer, assistant operations officer and regimental liaison officer. He fought in France, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, Central Europe and Germany, and was in the great battles at Metz, the Bulge and Linz. He has the Bronze Star for gallantry, the Purple Heart for wounds received near Jarney, France, in December, 1944, the Croix de Guerre, and served with the 156th Infantry, 26th Division, III Corps and XII Corps.

③ WILLIAM ALFRED KLEIN, JR., Lieutenant (jg), U. S. Navy

Husband of Evelyn Klein and son of Mr. and Mrs. William Alfred Klein. He was born Oct. 29, 1921, and attended Jesuit High School, Joseph A. Maybin School for Graduates, and Tulane University. Entering the Naval Reserve Nov. 13, 1942, he served at Tulane University, U. S. Naval Pre-Flight School, Athens, Ga., the U. S. Naval Air Base, Dallas, Texas, Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Ill., Notre Dame Midshipman School, and with USS LSM 25 and USS LSM 381. On June 26, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater where he was in combat at Leyte and Lingayen Gulf, Luzon in the Philippines and on Okinawa. He has the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Campaign Star. He was discharged at New Orleans May 20, 1946.

④ KARL F. KLEIN, Sergeant, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Klein. He was born July 3, 1923, and attended St. Anthony and Jesuit High Schools. Entering the Army Air Forces Oct. 7, 1942, he served at Camp Beauregard and Keesler Field, Miss., the Spartan School of Aeronautics at Tulsa, Okla., and Merlin Engine School, Detroit, Mich., training as an airplane mechanic. He served at Pinellas Army Air Field, St. Petersburg, Fla., at Richmond Army Air Field, Richmond, Va., Norfolk Army Air Field, Norfolk, Va., Bluethenthal Army Air Field, Wilmington, N. C., Kearney Army Air Field, Kearney, Neb., Walla Walla Army Air Field, Walla Walla, Wash., and served throughout training pilots in P-40 and P-47 aircraft (fighter planes). He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal, and was discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Feb. 26, 1946.

⑤ LISE C. GAUTREAUX, First Lieutenant, ANC

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonce Gautreaux, she attended Redemptorist High School and Charity Hospital School of Nursing at New Orleans, and entered the Army Nurse Corps Sept. 10, 1942, at Fort Jackson, S. C., where she served in ward nursing and was assigned to operating room nursing. On Aug. 21, 1943, she went to North Africa as an operating room nurse with the 64th General Hospital. She went to Italy in February, 1944, in the same capacity, and was in France at the 118th Station Hospital until going to Okinawa in September, 1945, as an operating room nurse with the 69th Field Hospital. She has Campaign Stars for a submarine attack aboard the Thomas H. Barry in August, 1943, for the Rome-Arno Campaign, the North Apennines, and the Po Valley. She was discharged Nov. 10, 1945, at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio.

⑥ WARREN JOSEPH GAUTREAUX, U. S. Marines

Husband of Lebra Cathrine Gautreaux and father of Patricia Nell Gautreaux. He was born March 19, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonce George Gautreaux. He attended Redemptorist High School and was payroll and invoice clerk for Jones and Laughlin Steel Barrel Plant, Gretna. On Sept. 30, 1943, he entered the U. S. Marine Corps and went to the U. S. Marine Corps Base at San Diego, Calif., for boot camp. He transferred to the 28th Marines, Fifth Marine Division, at Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif., as payroll clerk with the Regimental Paymaster, 28th Marines. On Sept. 19, 1944, he embarked for Hilo, Hawaii, where he served at Camp Tarawa. He left Hawaii Sept. 1, 1945, for occupation duty in Japan on the Island of Kyushu, where the 28th Marines had troops in Sasebo, Fukuoka, and Moji. The Fifth Marines were on Iwo Jima. He has the American Theater, Asiatic-Pacific Theater and Victory Ribbons.

⑦ ADOLF PAUL GAUTREAUX, Corporal, Marine Corps

Husband of Florine Durnin Gautreaux and father of Elaine Marie and Paul Michael Gautreaux. He was born June 10, 1916, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonce George Gautreaux, and attended Redemptorist School. He was an engineering aide for the U. S. Engineers prior to entering the U. S. Marine Corps Aug. 19, 1943. He was assigned to the U. S. Marine Corps Base at San Diego for training and attended clerical and quartermaster schools at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego. On March 27, 1944, he embarked for New Caledonia and served in Espiritu Santo, the New Hebrides, Guadalcanal and Bougainville as company clerk. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with a Battle Star for Bougainville, the American Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. Corporal Gautreaux was discharged April 21, 1945.

⑧ JOSEPH FRANCIS GAUTREAUX, S/Sgt., Army Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonce George Gautreaux, he attended Redemptorist and Jesuits, and was shipping clerk for a manufacturing firm prior to entering the Army Air Forces Oct. 8, 1941. From Camp Wheeler, Ga., he went to Radar School at Drew Field, Fla., and Eastern Signal Corps School, Fort Monmouth, N. J., graduating as radio operator with an excellent rating. He served in radar at Tampa and Jacksonville, Fla., and went to Oran, North Africa, as radio operator with a radar unit on Jan. 13, 1944, serving at Mostaganem, Lourmel and Beni-Saf in Africa and Pisa and Mommio, Italy, where he was also radio and communications chief. He served as radio repairman, taught chemical warfare and served with a fighter squadron, fighting in Rome-Arno, the North Apennines and the Po Valley. He has the American Defense Service and Good Conduct Medals, the European-African-Middle Eastern Ribbon with three Campaign Stars, and the Presidential Citation Badge with two Oak Leaf Clusters.

⑨ CHARLES EMILE GAUTREAUX, Aviation Radioman 3/C, U. S. N.

Husband of Angelina Theresa Matto Gautreaux. He was born Oct. 6, 1922, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonce George Gautreaux, and attended Redemptorist and S. J. Peters High Schools. He was a press operator for a steel drum plant prior to entering the Navy at New Orleans. From U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., he went to Aviation Radio School at Memphis, Tenn., Gunnery School, Hollywood, Fla., and to Cecil Field, Jacksonville, Fla., for operational training. On Nov. 20, 1943, he embarked for the New Hebrides and served with VB 306 at Bougainville and VB 99 on Eniwetok Atoll. He fought in the Bougainville-Buka Campaign and at Rabaul in the Bismarck Archipelago. He received the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars and the American Defense Service Medal. He was discharged on Dec. 6, 1945.

⑩ **EARL J. DOUCET, Sergeant, Paratroopers**

Son of Mrs. Yola A. Palmisano, he was born Feb. 13, 1926, and attended Lafayette, Jefferson High School, and Louisiana State University. On April 18, 1944, he entered the Parachute Infantry and trained at Camp Robinson, Ark., prior to going to Fort Benning, Ga., for Parachute School. On Jan. 31, 1945, he embarked for Europe and served in France and Germany manning a mortar gun with the 82nd Airborne Division. He served with General Eisenhower's Honor Guards at USFET Headquarters with the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, with which he last served as company clerk. He fought in the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the Belgian Fourragere, the Combat Infantry Badge, and a Presidential Unit Citation for outstanding performance of duty in action. He was an outstanding athlete in high school prior to entering service and was widely known.

⑪ **EDDIE A. DOUCET, Corporal, U. S. Army**

Son of Mrs. Yola A. Palmisano, he was born Sept. 3, 1924, and attended Lafayette and Jefferson Schools. He was a parts man for International Harvester prior to entering service Feb. 19, 1943. From Camp Butner, N. C., where he served with the 78th Infantry Division, he received Air Corps Basic Training at Miami Beach and aviation study at Clemson College, S. C. He entered the Corps of Engineers and received specialized training at the Engineer Depot, Columbus, Ill. On Sept. 27, 1944, he embarked for Europe and served in France, Belgium and Germany as a section leader with the 1567th Engineer Depot Company. He fought in the campaigns of the Ardennes and the Rhineland and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Campaign Stars. He was stationed in Liege during the heaviest buzz-bomb raid of the war. Corporal Doucet was an outstanding athlete and student body president in his senior year.

⑫ **ARMAND FRANCIS LAMBERT, Corporal, U. S. Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Lambert, he was born Sept. 17, 1918, and attended Holy Trinity and S. J. Peters High Schools. He was employed by the U. S. Engineers prior to entering the Army June 10, 1942. He trained at Camp Pickett, Va., Camp Blanding, Fla., Camp Forrest, Tenn., Camp Laguna, Ariz., and Camp Phillips, Kan. He embarked from Camp Myles Standish April 7, 1944, for the European theater and served with the 304th Engineers Battalion, 79th Infantry Division, for 19 months. He fought in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland and Central Europe. Corporal Lambert returned to the States and was discharged Dec. 4, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑬ **DOMINIC ANTHONY MESSINA, Tec/4, C of E, AUS**

Son of Jacob and Marie Ricca Messina, he was born Oct. 27, 1923, and attended St. Francis de Sales, S. J. Peters and J. A. Maybin Post Graduate Schools. He was an office clerk prior to entering the Corps of Engineers Jan. 26, 1943, and served at Camp Swift, Texas, Texas A. & M. College, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Camp Beale, Calif., and Camp Shanks, N. Y. Departing for the European Theater March 31, 1944, he served in the Intelligence and Reconnaissance Section in England, France, Belgium, Germany and Czechoslovakia and was in combat in Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the Bronze Invasion Arrowhead for the Normandy assault, the European Theater Ribbon with five Campaign Stars and the American Theater Ribbon, and was discharged Dec. 4, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑭ **MAURICE G. SCHEXNAYDER, Tec/3, U. S. Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Adonis J. Schexnayder, he was born June 5, 1920, and attended St. James School. Entering the Army in the Signal Corps Aug. 31, 1940, at Fort Barrancas, Fla., he served as an electrician at Fort Barrancas and was assigned to Camp Rucker, Ala., Camp Crowder, Mo., Camp Polk, La., Camp Young, Camp Beale and Fort Ord, Calif., serving as clerk, student and radio repairman. On Sept. 16, 1944, he embarked for the Hawaiian Islands and was stationed on Oahu as a radio repairman. Later he served on Okinawa and in the occupation of Korea in the same capacity. He fought in the Ryukyus Campaign on Okinawa, and has one Service Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with one Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was discharged on Dec. 10, 1945.

⑮ **RENE P. SCHEXNAYDER, S/Sgt., U. S. Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Adonis Schexnayder, he was born Oct. 11, 1914, and attended St. James High School. He was a carpenter prior to entering the Field Artillery April 11, 1941, where he served as a motor sergeant. Sergeant Schexnayder spent 25 months and nine days overseas. He embarked for Oran, North Africa, Aug. 21, 1943, and served in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany as motor sergeant with the FA and fought in the campaigns of Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, the Invasion of Southern France and the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the American Defense Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with Battle Stars and the Bronze Arrowhead for assault invasion over the beaches. He was discharged Oct. 18, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑯ **CALVIN J. A. BREAUX, Seaman 2/C, U. S. Navy**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. V. P. Breaux of 629 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, La. He was born Oct. 14, 1926, and attended the Behrman Elementary School. Upon completion of his education he entered the U. S. Navy. This was Oct. 30, 1944.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑰ **HERBERT G. JONES, JR., U. S. Navy**

Son of Eleanor M. Bick of New Orleans, La. He was born Feb. 21, 1927, and attended the Crossman Grammar School and the Fortier and Samuel J. Peters High Schools. Herbert entered the U. S. Navy in October, 1943.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑱ **ANTHONY BICK, Maritime Service**

Son of Rose Chudova of New Orleans, La. He was born May 29, 1907, and was educated in the public schools in Salem, Mass. He has been in the service for 20 years.

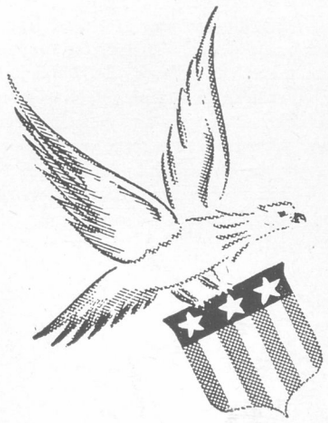
(N. M. I. A.)

⑲ **GEORGE B. C. DANGERFIELD, JR., Warrant Officer, USMC**

Husband of Melba M. Dangerfield and father of Albert William Dangerfield. He was born Sept. 21, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George B. C. Dangerfield, and attended Alcee Fortier, Southeastern Louisiana College and LSU, having been a clerk-typist and PBX operator prior to entering the U. S. Marine Corps April 15, 1938. He served at Marine Corps Bases at Quantico, Va., Paris Island, S. C., San Diego, Calif., and Puget Sound Navy Yard, Bremerton, Wash., assigned to duty with the band and paymaster department. On July 9, 1942, he embarked for Alaska and the Aleutians, and on June 19, 1944, for Tutuila, American Samoa, Maui, T. H., and Sasebo, Kyushu, Japan, taking part in the Initial Forces Occupation of the Japanese Home Islands Sept. 22, 1945.

⑳ **BURTON F. ERNST, Sergeant, U. S. Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Ernst. He was born April 10, 1920, and attended St. Joseph's, Jefferson High, and Allen Night School. He was a car loader and checker prior to entering the Army Nov. 18, 1942. He served with the 61st Armored Infantry Regiment, 10th Armored Division, and was stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., the Tennessee Maneuvers, Camp Gordon, Ga., and Camp Shanks, N. Y., for basic training and with a 37-millimeter gun crew, and as a rifleman and bazooka man. On Sept. 11, 1944, he embarked for Cherbourg, France and served in France, Luxembourg, Germany and Austria as assistant squad leader in a rifle platoon and operating a bazooka. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with three campaign stars for the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe and fought at Metz, in the Belgian Bulge, at Trier, and in the Moselle and Roer Crossings. He has the Purple Heart for wounds received at Trier March 3, 1945, the Good Conduct, Victory and American Theater Ribbons and Combat Infantry Badge.

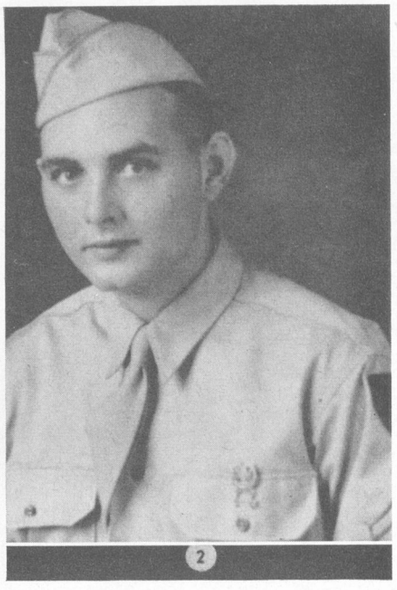




① WARREN E. DARBY

Seaman First Class, U. S. Navy

Husband of Dorilie Carmen Darby and father of Cheryl Ann and Darnell Jean Darby, 6126 North Rampart Street, New Orleans, La. He was born April 6, 1921, and attended Warren Easton High School and Delgado Trade School. Inducted June 14, 1944, at New Orleans, he received his training at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif. On Oct. 19, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served at the Receiving Station at Samar, Philippine Islands. Seaman First Class Darby has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged March 8, 1946, at New Orleans. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry C. Darby, Jr., New Orleans, La.



② HARRY CHRISTIAN DARBY, III

Technical Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Christian Darby, Jr. He was born Nov. 12, 1923, attended Holy Cross College and was junior checker at New Orleans port of embarkation prior to entering the service. Inducted Jan. 28, 1943, he received his training at Camp Howze, Texas, Camp Livingston, La., Fort Ord, Calif., and Fort Lewis, Wash. On April 14, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, serving at New Guinea, Leyte, Luzon and Japan, participating in the campaigns of New Guinea, Southern Philippines and Luzon, and the occupation of Japan. He has the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with three Battle Stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with one Battle Star, the American Theater of Operations Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Dec. 18, 1945, at Fort Sam Houston.

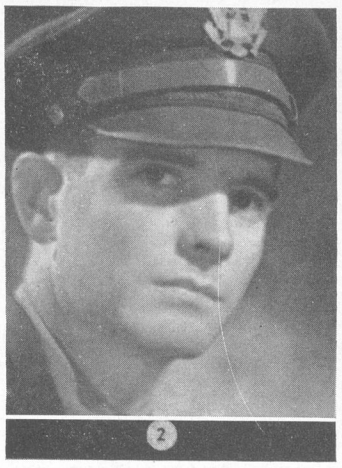


many. Lt. Pepperman was shot down over Linz, Austria Dec. 3, 1944, captured, imprisoned at Stalagluft No. 1 until liberated May 1, 1945. He wears the European Theater Ribbon and 4 battle stars, and the Air Medal with 2 oak leaf clusters. He was discharged Dec. 12, 1945.

② William Frank Babington

First Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl M. Babington of New Orleans, La., he was born Nov. 25, 1922, and attended Alcee Fortier High School. Entering the service April 2, 1942, he was assigned to Maxwell Field, Ala., later being sent to Fletcher Field, Miss. Babington received Pilot training at Pyote, Texas, Dalhart, Texas, and after graduating was sent to Grand Island, Nebr. As a B-17 Pilot he departed Dec. 17, 1943, for England where he was assigned to the 8th Air Force. Lt. Babington participated in the Air Offensives of Europe. He was awarded the air medal with two oak leaf clusters, European Theater Ribbon with one battle star. After more than three years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged Dec. 16, 1945. Lt. Babington was a prisoner of war at Barth, Germany, from March 8, 1944, until May 1, 1945.

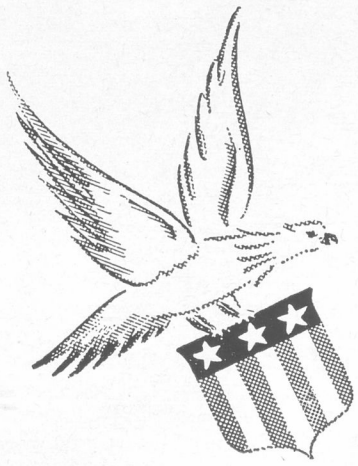




① William Gorman Pepperman

First Lieutenant, Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Pepperman of New Orleans, La., he was born Feb. 16, 1921, and attended Our Lady of Lourdes Parochial School and Alcee Fortier High School. Entering the Army Air Force June 6, 1942, Pepperman received training as a Pilot at Santa Ana, Calif., Oxnard, Calif., Lancaster, Calif., and Stockton, Calif. As First Pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress Lt. Pepperman departed Aug. 14, 1944, for Italy where he was assigned to 2nd Bomb Group, 96th Bomb Sqdn., of the 15th Air Force. He participated in the battle of Apennines, Italian Campaign and Air Offensive against Ger-

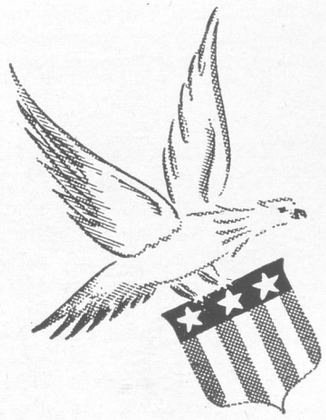


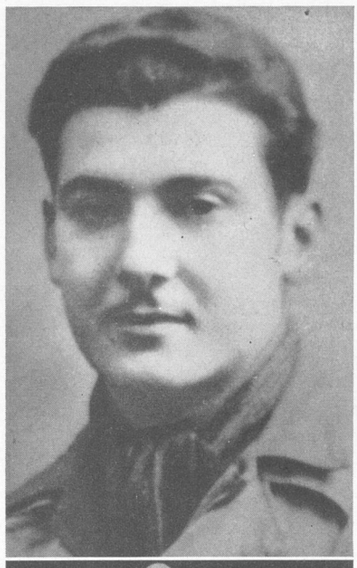
③ Carl Thomas Babington

Corporal, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl M. Babington of New Orleans, La., he was born Sept. 20, 1924, and attended Alcee Fortier High School. Carl entered the service July 1, 1942, and received training at San Diego, Calif., Camp Elliott, Calif., and the University of N. C. He departed Aug. 31, 1942, for overseas and served with the 7th Defense Battalion in Western Samoa, Nanumea and Kauai. He served with the 8th Defense Battalion in Apamama. After faithfully serving his country for more than 3 years Carl was discharged Nov. 29, 1945, at Portsmouth, Va.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

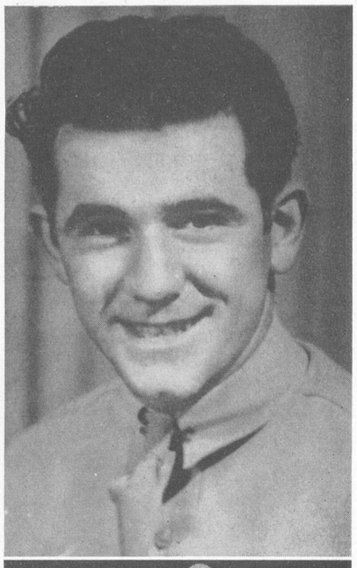




① HENRY MORTELLARO

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Bennierita Mortellaro, 6234 General Haig Street, New Orleans. He was born Oct. 17, 1922, and attended Lakeview School. He was employed by Higgins Industries prior to his induction into the armed service Dec. 16, 1942, at New Orleans. He received his basic training in the Field Artillery Corps at Camp Roberts, Calif. From there he went to Fort Dix, N. J., port of embarkation. He embarked April 17, 1943, for North Africa and took part in the Invasion of Sicily and the Invasion of Italy. He was then sent to England and fought with the Infantry in France, Belgium and Germany. No list of the campaigns of this gallant soldier is available, for he was fatally wounded in action against the enemy. He received the Purple Heart which was awarded to him posthumously Aug. 7, 1945. The decoration was sent to his family in New Orleans. It is not known whether or not Sergeant Mortellaro was a prisoner of war during his months of fighting in enemy-held Europe during the campaigns in France, Belgium and Germany, prior to receiving the wound which cost him his life in fighting for his country.



② FERDINAND A. SCHIBER

Private First Class, AUS

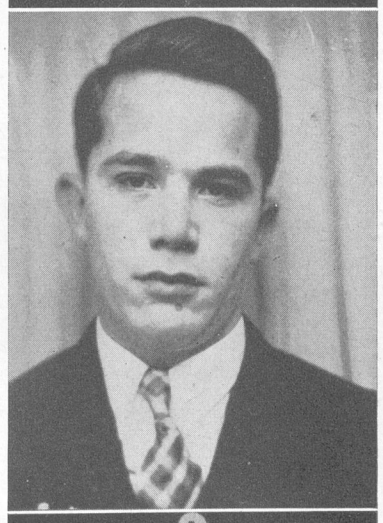
Husband of Charlotte F. Schiber, East End, Jefferson Parish, New Orleans, and son of Mrs. Gilbert A. Roach. He attended Lakeview School, Calhoun County, Ill., and Austin High School, El Paso, Texas, and entered the Army July 7, 1938, at Fort Bliss, Texas, where he served with "B" Troop, First Cavalry Division. He served in medical supply at William Beaumont General Hospital, El Paso, and LaGarde General Hospital, New Orleans, and went from Camp Stoneman to the Southwest Pacific Dec. 14, 1943, with the First Infantry Regiment, Sixth Division, which claims the record of 219 continuous days of combat. He served as a combat medic at Oro Bay and Sansapor, New Guinea, and Luzon in the Philippines. Prior to that he was at Brisbane, Australia, and Biak, N. E. I., with the Allied Intelligence Bureau. He has two Campaign Stars for New Guinea and Luzon, the Combat Medical Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the Distinguished Unit Badge with two Oak Leaf Clusters. He was honorably discharged at Fort Bliss, Texas, Aug. 8, 1945.



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① Millard Emile Matthew

Seaman 1/C (AMM), USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Emile Matthew, 1203 Metairie Road, Metairie. He was born on Feb. 9, 1922, and attended Tulane University, New Orleans. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on Jan. 27, 1943, at New Orleans, he served with the V-5 Training Course, Flight Preparation, Louisiana State Normal College, Natchitoches; with WTS, CAA, Arkansas Tech, Russellville, Ark.; USN Pre-Flight at Athens, Ga., and U. S. Naval Air Station, Memphis, Tenn. He received additional training and was assigned to duty at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla. (Class 4D-44), the U. S. Naval Training Center at Great Lakes, Ill., and the Naval Air Technical Training Center at Norman, Okla. (Class 20). Seaman First Class (Aviation Machinist Mate) Matthew served also at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia, Pa., and with CASU 21 in Norfolk, Va. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge on March 18, 1946, at the U. S. Naval Personnel Separation Center at Shelton, Va.

② Frederick Charles Matthew

Tec/5, Cavalry, U. S. Army

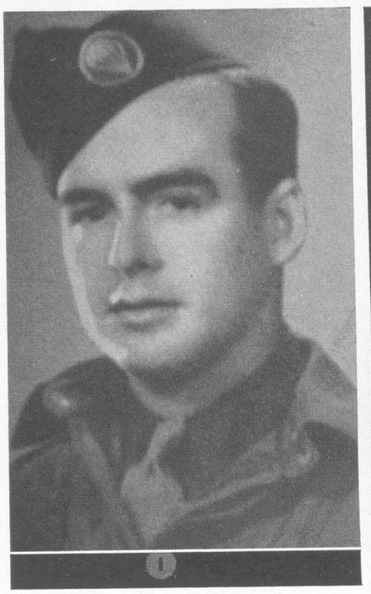
Husband of Irene Frances Matthew, 1203 Metairie Road, Metairie. He was born April 10, 1919, the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Emile Matthew, and attended Delgado Trade School. He was a painter and decorator and also worked for 18 months with Higgins Industries, Inc., New Orleans. Entering the Army of the United States Dec. 14, 1942, at New Orleans, he went to Fort Devens, Mass., and Camp Bureaugard and was assigned to the 101st Cavalry Service Troop, Fort George G. Meade, Md. He served with the same unit and also with the 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron at Camp Ashby, Va. He was assigned to the Chesapeake Bay Frontier Defense Sector, Virginia Beach, Va., and Headquarters Service Troop, Carolina Beach, N. C., with the 116th Cavalry Headquarters Service Troop. On Oct. 30, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater with the 116th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron as an automotive mechanic, machine gun and carbine expert. He was in combat in the Rhineland and Southern France and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with two Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge at Brooke Hospital Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Oct. 30, 1945.

③ John Jacob Matthew

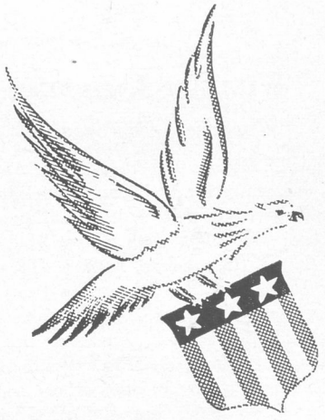
Seaman 2/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Vera Katherine Matthew, 1203 Metairie Road, Metairie, and father of Barbara Elizabeth Matthew. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Emile Matthew and attended New Orleans Military Academy and Metairie High School. He was an electrician at the time of his induction into the United States Naval Reserve on April 28, 1945, at New Orleans. Seaman Second Class Matthew was assigned for recruit training to the United States Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif. He served in San Diego and was granted his honorable discharge there on June 16, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA







① James J. Caruso

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Elsie Schroeder, 3312 Frenchman Street, New Orleans, and son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Caruso. He was born Nov. 12, 1920, and attended Jefferson Davis, S. J. Peters and Delgado Trade Schools and was with Godchaux prior to induction Oct. 21, 1942. He trained at Camp Blanding, Fort Benning and Camp Mackall and served as a rifleman and supply NCO armorer. On Dec. 28, 1943, he left for foreign service in Europe with the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, serving as supply sergeant with that unit in the initial invasions of Normandy and Holland by Paratroopers. His foreign tour of duty took him through England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany and he participated in sixteen different landings of Parachute troops in enemy territory. He fought in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He holds the European-African-Middle Eastern Medal, Meritorious Unit Award Medal, Belgian Fourragere Medal, Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart received when he was wounded in the fighting in Normandy. He was discharged Nov. 9, 1945.

② Theodore Jean Lendresse

U. S. Army

Son of Sylvain Jean and Marie Hitte Lendresse of Pau, France. He was born Feb. 11, 1907, and received his education at Lycee of Pau, France, and at Tulane University. He entered the service April 1, 1933, and served as adjutant, mess officer, detachment commander and executive officer at Fort Benning, Ga., Carlisle Barracks, Pa., Edgewood Arsenal, Md., and Fort Sill, Okla. On Sept. 4, 1941, he embarked for the European Theater where he served in England, France, Belgium, Germany and Iceland. He participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes and the Rhineland, and he has the Bronze Star Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the European Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal and the Victory Medal. He is still on active duty in the service.

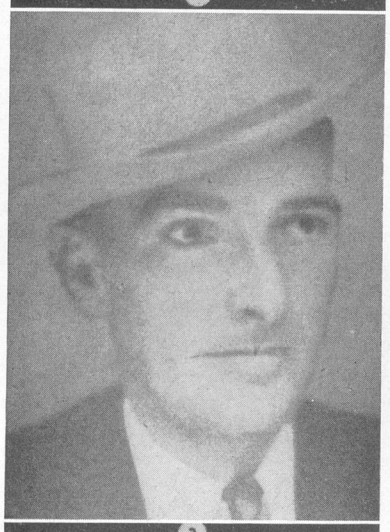
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Joyal Joseph Robert

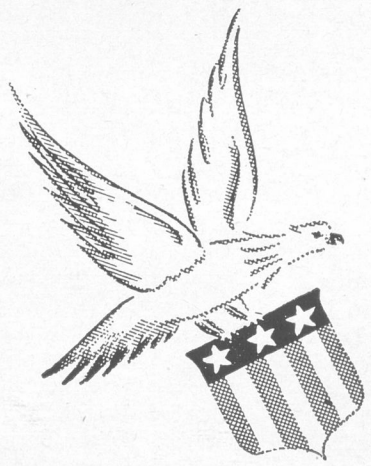
Commander, Maritime

Husband of Irene DesRosier Robert, 194 Van Nostrand Avenue, Jersey City, N. J., and father of Glen Joyal Robert. He was born July 28, 1910, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Joseph Robert, 6237 Wadsworth Drive, New Orleans, and attended Warren Easton High School and Engineering College of New York. Entering the Maritime Service at New Orleans he served in the Far East, England and Continental European ports in war time, in both the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. He was continuing to serve as commander with the Maritime Service.

② William J. Robert

Corporal, Air Forces

Husband of Lucille Dolores Robert, 5749 St. Anthony Street, New Orleans, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Joseph Robert, New Orleans. He was born Feb. 9, 1915, and attended Morgan City High School, Holly Hill High School, Holly Hill, S. C., and Warren Easton High School in New Orleans. Entering the Army Air Forces Nov. 24, 1942, at New Orleans, he served at Camp Beauregard, Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, and Buckley Field, Denver, Col., Armament School. He was assigned to duty at Eglin Field, Fla., in aircraft armament, at Buckley Field as non-commissioned officer and for further training, and at Drew Field, Tampa, Fla., in aircraft armament. He stayed seven days at sea in a life boat testing rations for aircraft life rafts and has the Good Conduct and Victory Ribbons. He was honorably discharged at Drew Field Dec. 20, 1945. He served for one and a half years in the Louisiana National Guard.

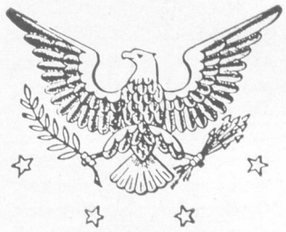


③ Jessie Daniel Robert

U. S. Maritime Service

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Joseph Robert, 6237 Wadsworth Drive, New Orleans. He was born March 29, 1922, and attended Holly Hill School of Holly Hill, S. C., and S. J. Peters High School in New Orleans. He entered the United States Maritime Service Sept. 11, 1939, at New Orleans and served until his ship was torpedoed in the Gulf of Mexico. He was killed in combat May 19, 1942, in the Gulf of Mexico and received the Mariner's Medal posthumously, presented to his parents in New Orleans in July, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Earl Joseph Eastin

② Albert Wanner Perez

③ Lloyd George Perez

④ Norman John Romaguera

⑤ Robert E. L. Romagosa

⑥ Garland Claude Romagosa

⑦ Lovell Joseph Romagosa

⑧ George Alfred Sorenson, Jr.

⑨ John Victor Parent, Jr.

⑩ Charles Allen Parent

⑪ James Henry Hadley, Jr.

⑫ Thomas William Hadley

⑬ Oswald Walter Bodker

⑭ Norval Harvey Shoop

⑮ Harvey M. Hudgens

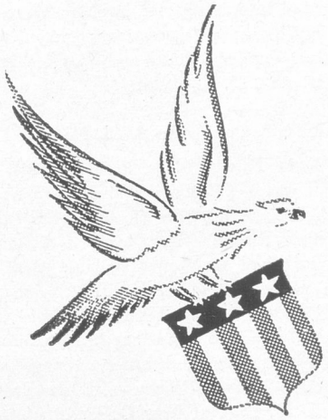
⑯ Reynold Joseph Millet

⑰ William H. Petee, Jr.

⑱ Charles Louis Napp III

⑲ Joseph Charles Caldarera

⑳ Frederick Francis Zimmerman





① **EARL JOSEPH EASTIN, Sergeant, U. S. Army**

Husband of Helen Clare Eastin. He was born Aug. 23, 1918, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Eastin, and attended Live Oak and Fortier High Schools and Tulane University. He worked as an automotive mechanic and as engineer for a brewing company, and entered the Army Dec. 4, 1940. Sergeant Eastin served in charge of the induction station at Camp Shelby, Miss., and has the Good Conduct, American Defense Service and American Theater Ribbons. He received a medical discharge May 22, 1941, at Camp Shelby and re-entered service Dec. 8, 1943, as a member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve (temporary). He held the ratings of Seaman 1/C, BM 1/C and CBM (T). He was discharged Sept. 30, 1945, and has the American Theater and Victory Medals.

② **ALBERT WANNER PEREZ, Warrant Officer, USN**

Husband of Dorothy Walton Perez and father of Albert Wanner Perez II. He was born March 4, 1908, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Perez. He attended Benjamin Franklin School, Warren Easton High School and Loyola University of the South. On March 1, 1942, he entered the Navy and served at U. S. Naval Hospital, Pensacola, Fla., U. S. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, and U. S. Marine Camp, New River, N. C. On Sept. 1, 1942, he embarked for Samoa and served in the islands of the South Pacific, attached to medical units serving with the Third Marine Division, the Fifth Defense Battalion, and the Fifth Amphibious Corps. He served as chief pharmacist, commissioned warrant officer. He was discharged Nov. 8, 1945.

③ **LLOYD GEORGE PEREZ, PFC, U. S. Army**

Husband of Marie-Louise (Sabathier) Perez and father of Clare Marie Perez. He was born Feb. 22, 1911, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Perez. He attended Benjamin Franklin School, Warren Easton Boys' High School and Loyola University, and was with Parke, Davis and Company, pharmaceutical house. He entered the Army Jan. 3, 1943, at New Orleans and was a member of the Army Services Training Program, Unit 3876, Louisiana State Medical Center, New Orleans. He has the Good Conduct Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Victory Medal.

④ **NORMAN JOHN ROMAGUERA, 1st Lieut., U. S. Army**

Husband of Elizabeth Gullo Romaguera and son of Austin and Camille (O'Conner) Romaguera. He was born June 8, 1913, and attended Delgado Trades School. He was a member of the Louisiana State Police Department prior to entering the Army Nov. 25, 1940, and was assigned to duty at Camp Blanding, Fa., Camp Bowie, Texas, Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., Fort Custer, Mich., Fort McPherson, Ga., and the Presidio of Monterey, Calif. On Sept. 5, 1944, he embarked for France and served also in Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany as a Military Police officer. He fought in the campaigns of Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Germany. He was discharged on Dec. 18, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑤ **ROBERT E. L. ROMAGOSA, Warrant Officer, Army**

He was inducted April 28, 1941, at New Orleans, and went to Fort McClellan, Ala., with the 207th Military Police Company. He served as platoon sergeant and first sergeant with Headquarters VII Corps and XV Corps, stationed at Birmingham, Ala., San Jose, Calif., Jacksonville, Fla., Camp Beauregard and Camp Young, Calif. As warrant officer, he was personnel officer of Headquarters XV Corps, Camp Young and S-4 (supply officer) with the 190th Quartermaster Mobile Supply Battalion at Fort Jackson, S. C. He served in England, Scotland, France, Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg in this capacity and fought in the campaign of Central Germany. He has the Bronze Star with Cluster, the Legion of Merit with Cluster and the Victory Medal. Warrant Officer Romagosa was placed on inactive duty Dec. 2, 1946.

⑥ **GARLAND CLAUDE ROMAGOSA, United States Navy**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Joseph Romagosa, he was born May 24, 1922, and attended McDonough No. 14 and Holy Cross. On Sept. 30, 1940, he entered the U. S. Navy and went to San Diego, Calif., for Naval Training and was assigned to the USS California, then to the USS Lamberton. From the U. S. Fleet Anti-Aircraft Training Center, Waianae, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, he was assigned to USS Hoggatt Bay. He embarked for Pearl Harbor April 9, 1941, and served in the Hawaiian Islands, the Marshalls, Palau, the Philippines, the Admiralty Islands, New Guinea, the Marianas and the Ryukyus. He served in the Saki Shima Islands, the Home Islands of Japan, the Aleutians, the Kuriles and the Volcano Islands. He was in combat at Pearl Harbor, Midway, Palau, Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines, and Okinawa.

⑦ **LOVELL JOSEPH ROMAGOSA, EM 1/C, Seabees**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Joseph Romagosa and father of Joy Ann and Claude Edward Romagosa. He was born May 22, 1915, and was a civil engineer by occupation prior to entering the Seabees (V-6), USNR Construction Battalions. From Camp Peary he went to the Naval Construction Training Center, Davisville, R. I., and was a rifle range instructor at Sun Valley, R. I. From Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif., and Treasure Island he embarked Oct. 21, 1944, for Oahu, Hawaii. He did electrical construction work in Hawaii and on Benika in the Russell Islands. He fought in the Invasion of Okinawa, operating self-propelled pontoon barges. On Guam in the Marshalls he was corporal of the guard. He was discharged on Nov. 11, 1945.

⑧ **GEORGE ALFRED SORENSON, JR., Warrant Machinist, U. S. Navy**

Born Sept. 27, 1922, he attended schools at Ancon, Canal Zone, Galveston, Atlanta and New Orleans, and was a clerk and bookkeeper prior to his induction into the U. S. Navy Nov. 12, 1940. He served at Norfolk, Va., Philadelphia Navy Yard, the U. S. Naval Air Station at Alameda, Calif., and was assigned to sea duty as a machinist June 16, 1941, going to Iceland with the USS Vulcan. He served in the North Atlantic, West Indies, Ellice Islands (Funa-Futi), Marshalls (Eniwetok and Kwajalein Atolls), Saipan and Pearl Harbor. He also served with the USS Phaon. He was in combat in the U-boat campaign of the North Atlantic, the Marshalls Campaign and Saipan, where he was wounded. He has the Purple Heart (December, 1944, at Pearl Harbor), Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal with Bronze A, American Theater Ribbon, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two stars and Victory Medal.

⑨ **JOHN VICTOR PARENT, JR., Sgt., U. S. Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Victor Parent. He was born Nov. 24, 1923, and was an electric welder prior to his induction into the Army on Feb. 18, 1943. Sergeant Parent served at Camp Mackall, N. C., Camp Campbell, Ky., Fort Knox, Ky., Fort Lewis, Wash., and Camp Cooke, Calif. On Feb. 6, 1945, he embarked for the European Theater where he served in Artillery as mechanic and maintenance man and fought as a heavy machine gunner. He was in combat in the Campaign of Central Europe and fought on the Danube, at Munich, Salzburg and in Austria. He has the American Theater Medal, the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with Bronze Campaign Star, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged Feb. 14, 1946.

⑩ **CHARLES ALLEN PARENT, Coxswain, U. S. Navy**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Victor Parent. Born June 22, 1925, he attended St. James School and was a shipping clerk at the time of his induction into the Naval Reserve on May 25, 1943. He went from the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, to Gunnery School, San Francisco, and embarked for New Caledonia Oct. 10, 1943, to serve as coxswain of naval craft in the Pacific. He fought at Bougainville, Saipan and Tinian in the Marianas, Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines, and Okinawa, and has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with six Bronze Stars. He was discharged Feb. 27, 1946, at New Orleans.

⑪ JAMES HENRY HADLEY, JR., Sergeant, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Hadley, he was born on Sept. 28, 1916, and attended St. Joseph's and Commercial High Schools and S. J. Peters Night School. He did bookkeeping and office work for Noble Butchers Supply Company prior to entering the Army Air Forces June 11, 1942. Sergeant Hadley served at Keesler Field, Miss., and Greenville Army Air Field, Miss., where he was assigned to duty from Aug. 3, 1942, to Dec. 18, 1945, as auditor, inspector's office, for 11 months and in clerical work in the cadet mess, sergeant major's office of cadet detachment with the custodial officer, and in the adjutant section handling publications and reports. He was discharged Dec. 20, 1945.

⑫ THOMAS WILLIAM HADLEY, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James H. Hadley, he was born July 16, 1925, and attended St. Joseph's, Warren Easton and S. J. Peters High Schools. On July 13, 1943, he entered the Naval Reserve at New Orleans and was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., from which he went to Landing Craft School and the Destroyer Base at San Pedro. He embarked for Pearl Harbor, T. H., on Sept. 10, 1943, and served with USS APA 103, Boat Pool, Navy 808, on Tarawa and in the Gilbert Islands, with USS LST 909, and with USS LCS 16. He was in combat in the Invasions of Tarawa, the Gilbert Islands, Leyte, Mindoro and Luzon in the Philippines, and Okinawa Shima. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon (five Bronze Stars) and Philippine Liberations Ribbon (two stars) and was discharged Feb. 21, 1946.

⑬ OSWALD WALTER BODKER, Cpl., Coast Artillery

Son of Mrs. Irene Bodker, he was born April 2, 1920, and attended Calhoun High School prior to entering the Coast Artillery Corps Oct. 19, 1942, at Camp Shelby. He received basic training at Fort Eustis, Va., and went to Panama Feb. 20, 1943, serving as a cannoneer with the Coast Artillery in the continental defense. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal and World War II Victory Medal. Corporal Bodker was discharged Nov. 23, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑭ NORVAL HARVEY SHOOP, AMM 2/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Marjorie Ross Shoop and father of Sandra Louise Shoop. He was born Feb. 14, 1923, the son of Mr. and Mr. and Mrs. Norval Luther Shoop. He attended Miami Edison High School and entered the Navy at Miami May 13, 1940. He was assigned for training to the Naval Reserve Air Base at Opelika, Ala., and the Naval Air Station, New Orleans. On Sept. 17, 1944, he went into action in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater aboard the USS Bennington, serving in the invasion and occupation of Chichi Jima, Iwo Jima and Okinawa, and the occupation of Tokyo. He was discharged Oct. 3, 1945.

⑮ HARVEY M. HUDGENS, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Husband of Mrs. Catherine B. Hudgens and son of Mrs. Agnes Louise Perron Hudgens. He was graduated from McDonough No. 3, Warren Easton Boys' High School and Samuel J. Peters Boys' High School of Commerce. He entered the Army February 28, 1941, at Camp Shelby and trained at Camp Blanding, Fla., and Stoney Field, Charleston, S. C. On Sept. 25, 1942, he embarked for England and served in England, Africa, Italy, France and Belgium. He fought in the campaigns of Rome-Arno and the Rhineland and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with two Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal and the Victory Medal. He was discharged Sept. 30, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑯ REYNOLD JOSEPH MILLET, Corps of Engineers, AUS

Husband of Irene L. Millet and son of Herbert and Arcise Millet. He was born Dec. 24, 1920, and attended Jefferson High School, working as a crane operator at the Port of Embarkation, New Orleans, prior to his induction into the Army on Aug. 19, 1943. He received basic training at Camp Beauregard and served at Camp Plauche, instructing men in the operation of electric, gas and diesel operated cranes. He served at Staten Island Terminal, New York, and Brooklyn Army Base and on truck convoy between Brooklyn and New Jersey. He received a personal citation for expediting the loading of ships (1944-1945 Christmas and New Year holidays), and acted as assistant engineer on a tugboat during the New York tugboat strike when the Army took over. He was discharged in February, 1946.

⑰ WILLIAM H. PETEE, JR., PFC, U. S. Army

He was born July 26, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William H. Petee, and attended McDonough No. 23. He served as a patrolman prior to entering the Army April 12, 1944. He went to Camp Beauregard, then to Fort Custer, Mich., with the Military Police Corps, to Camp Ellis, Ill., then to Camp Butner, N. C., with the 89th Infantry Division. On Jan. 10, 1945, he embarked for LeHavre and fought in the Ruhr Encirclement, the Campaign of the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He also served in the Army of Occupation in France and Germany. He was a member of a rifle squad fighting in the line, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Victory Medal and Combat Infantry Badge. He was discharged Feb. 5, 1946.

⑱ CHARLES LOUIS NAPP III, AMM 2/C, USNR

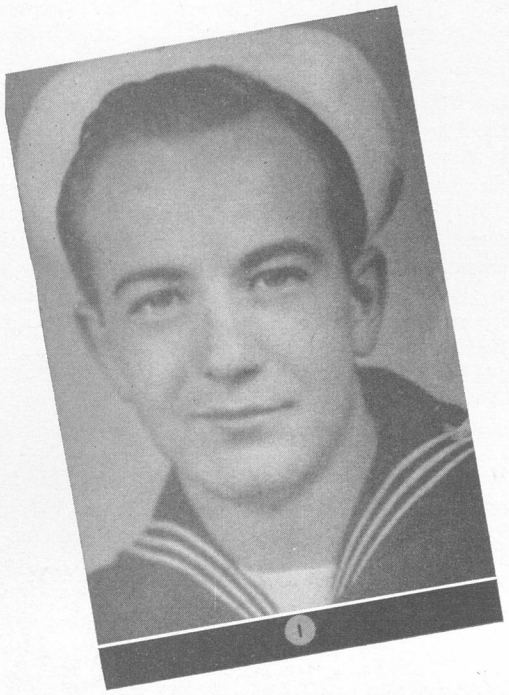
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Louis Napp, Jr., he was born June 2, 1923, and attended St. Anthony Parochial School, Warren Easton High School, and worked for the Times-Picayune Publishing Company. Entering Naval Aviation on Dec. 7, 1942, he trained at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., and NATTC, Norman, Okla. He attended gunnery school at Pensacola, Fla., and received advanced training and assignments at Jacksonville, Fla., NAS, at NATTC in Norfolk, Va., and at West Palm Beach, Fla. He went to England April 7, 1944, as waist gunner on patrol duty in the Bay of Biscay. In the same capacity he covered the Normandy and Cherbourg Invasions and the Brest Landing, and has three Campaign Stars with Fleet Air Wing 7, he received the Distinguished Flying Cross, a commendation for completing 39 missions over enemy territory in the European area, the Air Medal, and a Presidential Citation for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy.

⑲ JOSEPH CHARLES CALDARERA, JR., Assistant Purser, Merchant Marine

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Bernard Caldarera, he was born Sept. 30, 1926, and attended St. John the Baptist, St. Matthias, Howard No. 1, Sacred Heart of Jesus and Samuel J. Peters Schools, and was a storekeeper at the U. S. Naval Supply Depot, New Orleans. In October, 1944, he entered the Merchant Marine and trained at the U. S. Maritime Service Training Center, St. Petersburg, Fla., and the Maritime Service Graduate Station, New Orleans, where he also served as storekeeper. In June, 1945, he went to Cuba and in August to Trinidad, British West Indies, and South American ports. He continued to serve with the Merchant Marine as junior assistant purser after the cessation of hostilities.

⑳ FREDERICK FRANCIS ZIMMERMAN, Fireman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Zimmerman, he was born July 2, 1926, and attended Alcee Fortier High School. Entering the Naval Reserve on July 1, 1944, he went to Camp Decatur, San Diego, Calif., and was assigned to the destroyer USS Bennett, with which he went to Pearl Harbor. He was in combat on Iwo Jima and Okinawa where his destroyer was hit by an enemy suicide plane April 7, 1945, but was able to return to Puget Sound Navy Yard, Wash., under its own power. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with Campaign Stars for Iwo Jima and Okinawa and the Good Conduct Medal. His discharge was granted on June 3, 1946, at San Pedro, Calif.



Dental Technology General School, N. T. S., San Diego, and was assigned to N. T. S. at Farragut, Idaho, and the training station at Alameda, Calif., for Dental Prosthetics. His last assignment in the States was the U. S. Naval Hospital, Corvallis, Oregon, as Dental General Technician. On May 19, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater of Operations. He was stationed aboard the USS Presidio (APA 88) and participated in the Third Fleet's naval operation off the Coast of Japan. He was awarded the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with one battle star, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Jan. 4, 1946.

② Mary Clare Fields Eberhardt

Ensign, U. S. Navy Nurse Corps

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther J. Fields, and mother of Sharon Mary Eberhardt, 315 North Rankin Street, Natchez, Mississippi. She was born Sept. 11, 1920, attended St. Joseph's Academy, and also Hotel Dieu School of Nursing. She was inducted into the service at New Orleans, La., on Nov. 17, 1942, and was assigned to the Pensacola Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla., as a Nurse, and was then transferred to the Corpus Christi Naval Hospital, Corpus Christi, Texas, serving in the same capacity. She was given an honorable discharge at New Orleans on Nov. 17, 1943. She is the daughter-in-law of Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Eberhardt, 7800 Birch Street, New Orleans, La.





① Gerson R. Eberhardt

Ph. M. 2/C, U. S. N.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Eberhardt, 7800 Birch St., New Orleans. He was born Oct. 4, 1921, and attended Holy Name of Jesus High School and Jesuits High School. He was employed as a clerk when inducted Jan. 13, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned to the Naval Training Station, San Diego, then to the Hospital Corps there for schooling in naval medical techniques. He was stationed at U. S. Naval Hospital, Corona, Calif., and at the dispensary at San Diego Naval Training Station. He received schooling in dental technique at the

③ Fredrick N. Eberhardt

Captain, U. S. Army Air Force

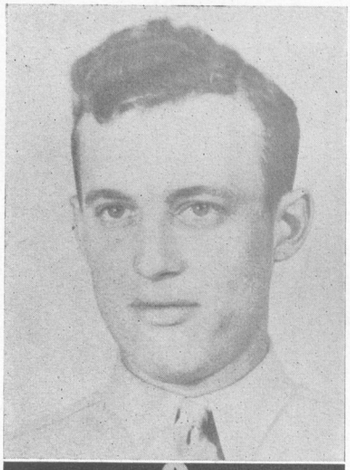
Husband of Mary Clare Fields Eberhardt, and father of Sharon M. Eberhardt, 7800 Birch St., New Orleans, La. He was born Dec. 25, 1915, and attended Jesuit High School and Louisiana State University. He was inducted at Jackson, Miss., on Sept. 26, 1941, and was assigned to Wright Field, Dayton, Ohio, as Liaison Pilot Officer, and then to Eastern District, Air Technical Service Command as Assistant Engineering Officer and Army Acceptance Pilot, Weight and Balance Officer, and Liaison Officer. On June 21, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater, serving there with the 8th Fighter Command, disseminating latest information on P-47 Aircraft to units of 8th Fighter Command. He served also as Supply Officer with the 315th Service Group (Air). Captain Eberhardt has the American Defense Service Badge, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the European Theater of Operations Medal, and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal. He was honorably discharged at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on Jan. 13, 1946. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fredrick Eberhardt, 7800 Birch St., New Orleans, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Frank W. Clew, Jr.

Corporal, Army Air Forces

Husband of Juliette W. Clew, 10 San Jose Avenue, New Orleans, was born Feb. 19, 1922. He attended St. Francis Xavier and Crossman Schools, S. J. Peters Boys' High School, and was inducted Aug. 17, 1942, for service in the Army Air Forces. Receiving his basic training at St. Petersburg, Fla., he was assigned to Lynn Field, Bainbridge, Ga., and Selman Field, Monroe, as a radio operator. He then went to Sioux Falls, S. D., and spent 18 weeks training as radio operator and mechanic before leaving for Camp Kilmer and Port of Embarkation. On Dec. 5, 1943, he sailed for England and served there as airfield controller before shipment to France Nov. 19, 1944. As control tower operator, he saw action in Villeneuve, Chartres, Orleans and other centers. He received the American Defense Service Medal, the European Theater of Operations Medal, a Battle Participation Star for the Rhineland Campaign, and a Battle Participation Star for Central Europe. He was discharged Dec. 22, 1945, at Camp Shelby.



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② Edward Joseph Wendling, Jr.

Yeoman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Giulah Belle Wendling, 2301 Benefit Street, New Orleans, and father of Judy Ann Wendling. He was born Oct. 26, 1916, and attended Mater Dolorosa and Walter C. Flower Schools, S. J. Peters Boys' High School. He was employed as a clerk and stenographer before his induction June 28, 1941. From June 28, 1941, to Aug. 4, 1944, he served as a U. S. Navy recruiter in New Orleans and at Tupelo, Jackson, Greenwood and Hattiesburg, Miss. After extensive amphibious training he sailed Feb. 14, 1945, for Pearl Harbor and was flotilla yeoman in charge of LCT flotillas at Pacific ports before leaving Eniwetok for the States. He received the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, the American Defense Service Medal for action prior to the Jap attack on Pearl Harbor, and the Good Conduct Medal. Yeoman First Class Wendling was given his honorable discharge Oct. 7, 1945.



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③ Morris Charles Wendling

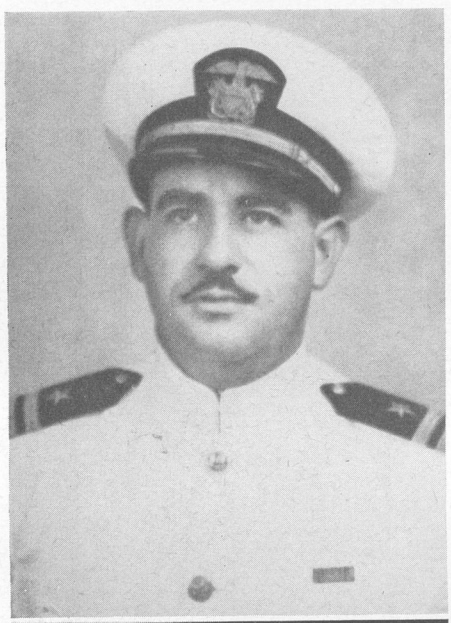
Motor Machinist Mate 1/C, U. S. N.

Holds the Submarine Combat Pin with five Stars, a decoration given to submarine men who participated in successful missions against enemy shipping, each star representing a successful mission. He was born Dec. 19, 1920, and attended Walter C. Flower, Mater Dolorosa and S. J. Peters Schools. Entering the service Jan. 7, 1942, he was in boot camp at San Diego January, 1942, to March, 1942. On March 20 he sailed for Pearl Harbor aboard the USS Gato on sea duty, then transferred to a submarine relief crew at Midway Island. He saw duty with the USS Kingfish and Relief Crew 102. In May, 1943, he transferred to the USS Whale on sea duty as motor machinist mate, in May, 1944, Wendling transferred from the Whale to Submarine Relief Crew 102 in the Marshalls. He participated in the Battle of Midway in June, 1942, and received the Asiatic-Pacific and the American Defense Ribbons as well as the Submarine Combat Pin with five Stars. He was discharged Sept. 28, 1945.



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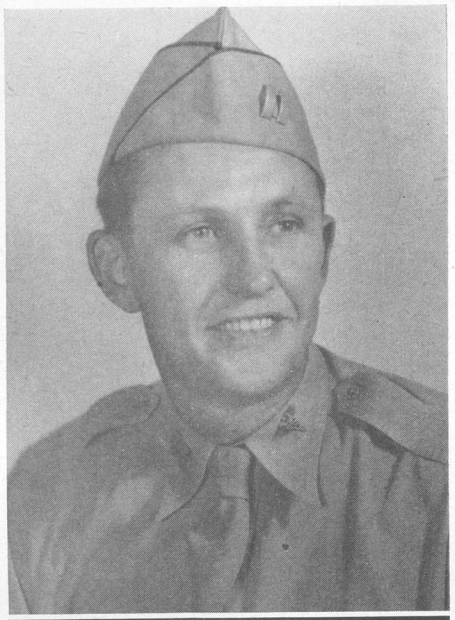
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① FULBERT JEAN SABATHIER

Lieutenant Commander, USNR

Husband of Marjorie Mary DeBarbieris, 1018 N. Miro, New Orleans, and father of Marjean Ann, Cynthia Cecile and Fulbert Louis Sabathier. He was born Dec. 24, 1907, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fulbert Louis Sabathier. After St. Aloysius College and Tulane University, he engaged in business until called to active service Oct. 26, 1940. His assignments include the Bureau of Ships, ND, Washington, the Naval Reserve Armory, U. S. Naval Training Center in San Diego, and U. S. Naval Training School, University of Houston. He was at the Submarine Chaser Training Center, Miami, USN ROTC at Rice Institute, and Eighth Naval District Headquarters, N. O., prior to serving with the Third Fleet in the Pacific. With the USS Bracken (AT 64) July 24, 1944, he served as Ship's Beachmaster and with Transport Squadron 24 (Staff) as Squadron Beachmaster, Operations Officer and Squadron Navigator. He was in the initial occupation of the Tokyo-Yokohama-Sagemi-Wan area of Honshu, the Sixth Marines' landing at Tsingtao, the redeployment of the 52nd Chinese Army from French Indo-China to China. He has the American Defense Medal (afloat), American Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific and Philippine Liberation Medals, the Victory and USNR Medals. He was discharged March 16, 1946.



② EDWIN JOSEPH HERPICH

Captain, MC, AUS

Husband of Regina Cutler Herpich, 3621 East Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, and son of Rudolph and Louise Acker Herpich, 3904 Delgado Avenue, New Orleans. He has three children, Mary Louise, Edwina Carol and Edwin Joseph, Jr., Captain Herpich was born June 10, 1911, and attended Gayarre, John Dibert and Warren Easton Boys' High School and Tulane University. He was a physician and surgeon prior to entering the Army in the Medical Corps May 22, 1942. He served at MAAF, West Palm Beach, Fla., Randolph Field at San Antonio, Texas, and with the MAAF at Nashville, Tenn., Presque Isle, Maine, Montgomery, Ala., and Malden, Mo. He served with the 13th Airborne Division, 222nd Medical Corps, at Camp McKall, N. C., and Camp Butner, Durham, N. C. He was released from active duty at Camp Butner, Raleigh, N. C., on Jan. 15, 1946.

① Charles Joseph Hardeman

Seaman First Class, U. S. Coast Guard

Husband of Rose Campagna Hardeman, and father of Thomas Charles Hardeman, 5223 Spain St., New Orleans, La., he was born Sept. 14, 1925, attended Hynes Trade School, and was employed by Higgins Ship Yard prior to entering the service. He was inducted at New Orleans on Sept. 15, 1942, and served with the Beach Patrol at Port Arthur, Texas; assigned to Guard Duty and Captain of the Port of Savannah, Ga.; attended Fire Fighting and Gunnery School at Rahway, N. J.; and was then assigned to the USS Ontonagon, at Brooklyn, N. Y. On Nov. 13, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served at Johnson Island, Ulithi Island, Eniwetok, Okinawa, and the China Sea, participating in the Invasion of Okinawa. S 1/C Hardeman has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with one battle star, the American Theater of Operations Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on Nov. 26, 1945. He is the son of Neola E. Hardeman, 5223 Spain St., New Orleans.

② Michael J. Fanning

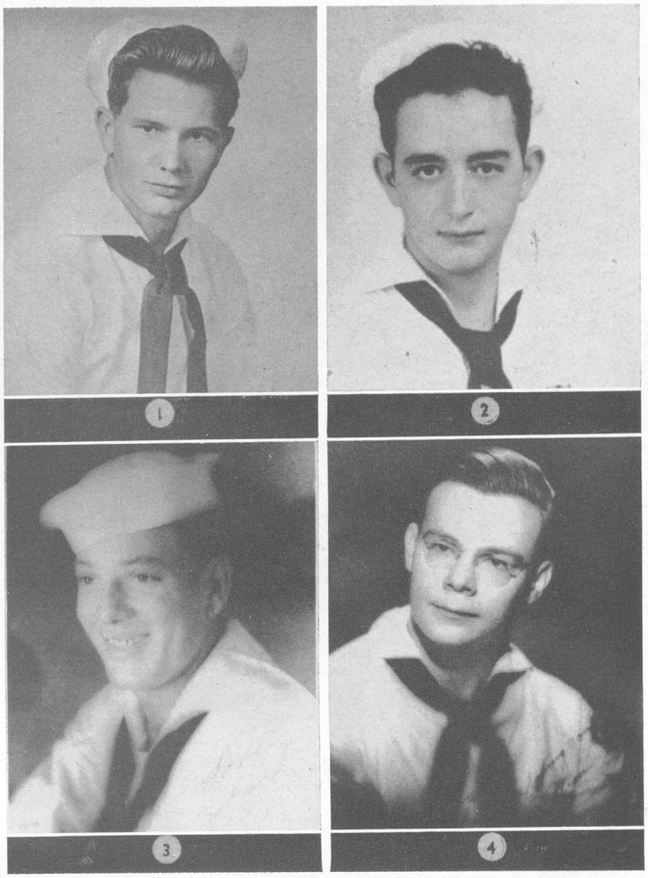
Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Fanning, 1547 Constance St., New Orleans. Born July 21, 1925, he attended St. Michael's, Redemptorist, and Warren Easton Schools, entering the U. S. Navy Dec. 10, 1941. He served at Norfolk, Va., Washington, D. C., New York City, Lido Beach, L. I., Boston, Mass., Providence, R. I., Miami, and New Orleans. Embarking for sea duty Jan. 21, 1942, he served in Nova Scotia, Scotland, England, North Africa (Safi and Casablanca), Anzio Beach, Italy, Bermuda, Cuba, Trinidad, Haiti, Jamaica, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Panama, the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, Saipan, Eniwetok and Ulithi Atolls, Los Negros (Philippines), Iwo Jima, Shanghai, and Tokyo Bay. He was in combat at Casablanca, Anzio, Los Negros, Okinawa, Eniwetok, and the Juno Mine Sweep in the East China Sea. He has the First Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon, Captain's Commendation Mast, and citations from Admirals Spruance, Turner and Nimitz.

③ Harold Alphonse Brady

Fireman 2/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Rita Adeline Kruebbe Brady, 4236 Magazine St., New Orleans. He was born Dec. 19, 1919, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Brady, and attended Gretna school. He was an electrician at Todd Johnson Drydocks, Algiers, prior to entering the U. S. Navy Oct. 30, 1944, at New Orleans. He was sent to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, for boot training and to electrical school at Gulfport, Miss. He went to Shoemaker, Calif., to await overseas transfer. On August 20, 1945, he embarked for Pearl Harbor on the USS Quick AM 32 with the electrical division and served with this ship throughout his sea duty. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans Oct. 20, 1945.



④ Allen Joseph Schwark

USN Seabees

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph H. Schwark, he was born Dec. 22, 1923, and attended Sacred Heart of Jesus School and Holy Cross College, New Orleans and Notre Dame University, South Bend, Ind. He was employed by Higgins Industries prior to entering the USN Construction Battalions June 16, 1943. He trained at Camp Peary Va., and went to Signal School, Camp Parks, Cal., and 20-millimeter gunnery school, Port Hueneme, Cal., then overseas. On Sept. 28, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Isles with the 14th Special Stevedore Battalion as a gunner on cargo ships to Guam, Tarawa, and Epiritu Santo. With the 3rd Naval Construction Regiment he served on Pearl Harbor, and at the Advance Base Construction Depot on Oahu, T. H., in photo-lithography, running an offset press. He took part in the Invasion of Tarawa and the campaign in the Gilbert Islands as a gunner (20 millimeter), and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two battle stars. He also has the A. T. O. Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. He traveled through 28 states and more than 30,000 miles as a Seabee, and attended the University of Hawaii, Oahu, playing in a dance orchestra for USO and other entertainments. He was honorably discharged April 17, 1946.







① Lewis B. Trellue

Warrant Officer, USMC

Husband of Josephine B. Trellue, 1203 Verdugo Road, Glendale, Calif., and son of Mr. and Mrs. Newell B. Trellue, 2113 General Pershing St., New Orleans. He attended Alcee Fortier School and was engaged in business at the time of his induction Nov. 7, 1940, at San Diego. He was assigned to the Marine Corps Base, Camp Elliott, with the Sixth Marines, 2nd Signal Company, 2nd Service Battalion, and 2nd Marine Raiders. In May, 1942, he embarked for foreign service, and was stationed in New Zealand, Guadalcanal, Bougainville, Tulagi, the New Georgia Group, Rendova, Noumea, and the New Hebrides. He fought in the historic campaigns for Guadalcanal, Munda, and Bougainville. He was twice awarded a Presidential Citation for action against the enemy above the call of duty. He has been in action with the United States Marine Corps for more than five years and took part in three of the Marines' greatest campaigns of the past war in the Pacific.

② Robert Frederick D'Aunoy, Jr.

Private First Class, U. S. Army

Husband of Grace F. D'Aunoy, and father of Robert F. III and Christopher Martin D'Aunoy, 1934 Abundance St., New Orleans, La. He was born June 5, 1922, attended Fortier High School, and was employed by the Delta Shipbuilding Company prior to entering the service. He was inducted into the Engineers Sept. 19, 1944, at New Orleans, and received his Basic Training at Camp Gordon, Fla., and was then assigned to Camp McDowell, San Francisco, Calif., from which he embarked for the Pacific Theater on Jan. 1, 1945. He served at Leyte, with the 46th Engineers Construction Battalion, and then at Luzon, assigned to Boat Building Command, 411th Engineers. Private First Class D'Aunoy participated in the Southern Philippines campaigns. He has the Meritorious Unit Citation, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with two bronze stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Jan. 28, 1946.

③ Allison G. Gleason

S/Sgt., U. S. Army

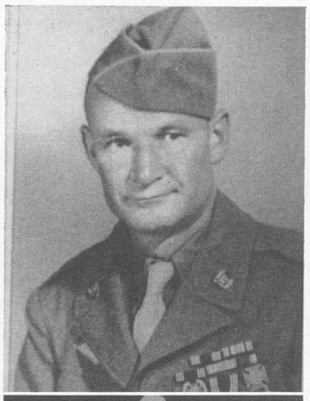
Husband of Margaret Marullo Gleason, 1514 Constance St., New Orleans. He was born Nov. 8, 1917, and attended Gayarre, S. J. Peters Boys High Schol of Commerce, and was manager of the receiving department, Sears Roebuck and Company, New Orleans, when he entered the Army May 25, 1942. He trained at Fort Warren, Wyo., and joined the 810th Tank Destroyer Battalion as supply clerk at Camp Hood, Texas. He served as a warehouse foreman at Headquarters Tank Destroyer Reconnaissance Training Center, and went to Camp Atterbury, Ind., with Company C, 424th Infantry Regiment, 106th Infantry Division. He embarked Oct. 21, 1944, for the European Theater of Operations and served with the same regiment and company in England (training) and as a platoon sergeant in combat in France, Belgium, and Germany (acting first sergeant). In England at Tidworth he served with a 12th Replacement Depot Training Cadre as platoon sergeant and with the 14th Major Port as warehouse foreman and buyer for the Army Exchange Service. He fought in the campaigns of the Rhineland and the Ardennes, and has the Meritorious Service Award, the Combat Infantry Badge, the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with two battle stars, the American Theater Ribbon, the Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was honorably discharged Feb. 5, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Max Kenneth Babington

Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Brownie Stringfield of Franklinton, La. He was born Jan. 10, 1911, attended Varnado High School and Soule College, and was employed by the New Orleans Auto Supply Company prior to entering the service. Inducted Aug. 14, 1942, he received his training at Fort Knox, Ky.; Camp Campbell, Ky.; Camp Tyson, Tenn.; Camp Chaffee, Ark., and Camp Bowie, Texas. On March 27, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served at Manila, Philippine Islands, and at Otaru, Japan, as a clerk-typist. Corporal Babington participated in the campaign at Luzon CO33 WD 45, and he has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with one bronze star, the Philippine Liberation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Feb. 4, 1946. He is the son of John James and Vivian McMillan Babington, 2311 Magazine St., New Orleans, La.



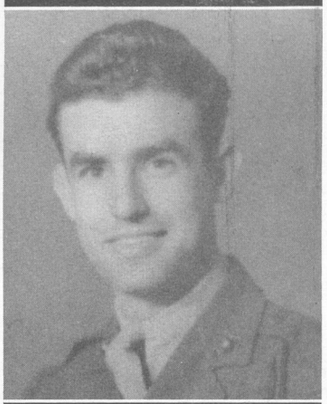
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② Roy C. Schneider

PFC, Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Schneider, 324 Nashville Ave., New Orleans. He was born July 23, 1923, and attended Danneel, Fortier High, and Delgado Trades Schools. He entered the U. S. Marine Corps Dec. 9, 1941, at New Orleans and trained at the Marine Corps Base, San Diego, Cal. (boot training) and Camp Elliott, San Diego (training for combat engineers). He was assigned to the U. S. Naval Ammunition Depot, New Orleans, on guard duty. After going to Camp LeJeune, N. C., for reassignment, he went with a motor transport battalion to Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Cal., for overseas training. On Oct. 19, 1942, he embarked for New Zealand and served with the Marines on Guadalcanal, Betio Island, Tarawa, Hawaii, Saipan, and Tinian. He fought in the U. S. Marines engagements on Guadalcanal and on Tarawa. Private First Class Schneider was honorably discharged September 22, 1945, at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Cal.

③ George S. Stewart

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Eliska Bates Stewart, 7910 Jeannette St., New Orleans, La. He was born March 25, 1924, and attended Jesuit High School, and Tulane University. Inducted March 19, 1943, at Camp Beauregard, he received his Basic Training at Camp Robinson, Ark., and was then transferred to Camp Patrick Henry, from where he embarked for overseas on Sept. 3, 1943. He served in Oran, Algiers, Casablanca, Tunis, Naples, France, Germany, Panama, New Guinea, and Philippine Islands. Sergeant Stewart participated in the campaigns of Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, Central Europe. He has the European Theater of Operations Medal with four bronze stars, the Bronze Arrowhead, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Dec. 24, 1945.

④ Rene August Joyce

Gunnery Sergeant, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Rene Joyce, 1621 Paul Morphy St., New Orleans, La. He was born Aug. 14, 1920, and attended Samuel J. Peters High School. From 1937 to 1941, he was in the U. S. Marine Reserve, called to Active Duty Nov., 1940. After being discharged in 1941, he reenlisted July 1, 1942, and received his training with the Reserves at Quantico, Va., and Parris Island, S. C. When he was called to Active Duty, he trained at San Diego, Cal. On Oct. 20, 1942, he embarked for the South Pacific, and served at New Zealand, Guadalcanal, Gilbert Islands, Hawaii, Marianas Islands, Ryukyu Islands, participating in the campaigns at Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, Tinian and Okinawa. Sergeant Joyce received the Purple Heart Nov., 1944, at Saipan, and he was given a Gold Star for a second wound. He has also the Bronze Star Medal, and a Presidential Citation. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans, Sept. 29, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



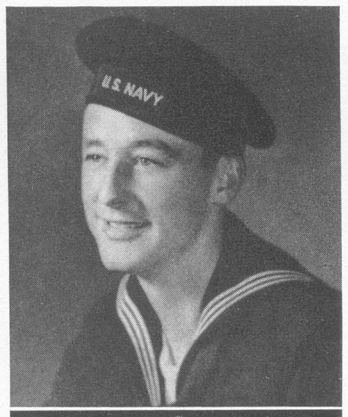
Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the WAC Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. Sergeant Harris received her discharge with a certificate of honorable service Aug. 29. 1945, at Fort Bragg, N. C.

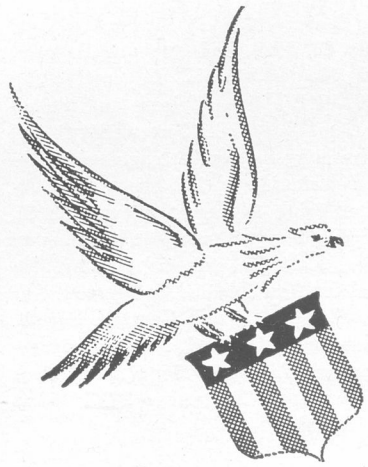
② Ysabel Frances Lockhart

Sergeant, U. S. Women's Army Corps

Daughter of William Henry and Cecile Nolan Lockhart, 1619 South Salcedo St., New Orleans, La. She was born Dec. 19, 1920, attended Henry W. Allen High School of Commerce, and was a legal secretary prior to entering the service. She was inducted Jan. 4, 1943, at New Orleans, and was assigned to Camp Pickett, Va., as Secretary to Post Provost Marshal. From there she was transferred to HRPE, Newport News, Va., serving as Secretary to Director, Troop Movement Division. Sergeant Lockhart was given an honorable discharge at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, on Jan. 20, 1946, after serving thirty-six months in the service.







① Beverly R. Harris

Sergeant, WAC

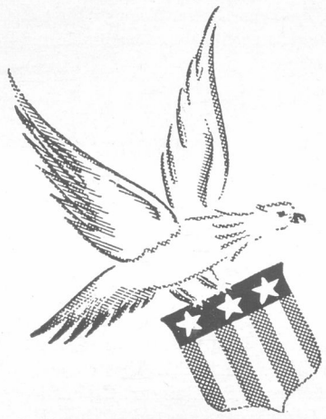
Daughter of Mrs. E. Leonhard, 7911 Birch St., New Orleans. She was born March 4, 1917, and attended Robert E. Lee, McMain High, and Allen Commercial Schools and was a clerk and stenographer with an airline at New Orleans Airport prior to induction Oct. 17, 1943. Assigned to Santa Ana Air Base in California, she served as code instructor for Pilot Radio School until going overseas May 30, 1944. Sergeant Harris served in England, France, and Belgium as radio (CW) operator with Ninth Bomber Command Headquarters. She has battle stars for the Invasion of Normandy, the Campaign of Northern France, the Ardennes Forest Defensive, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. She also has the European-African-

③ Alfred Francis Correnti

Yeoman Second Class, U. S. Navy

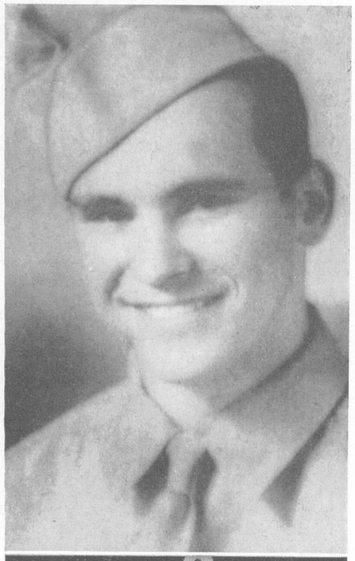
Husband of Bette Lockhart Correnti, and father of Barbara Jean Correnti, 1619 South Salcedo St., New Orleans, La. He was born Aug. 22, 1921, attended Jesuit High School, and was a Stenographer-Bookkeeper prior to entering the service. Inducted May 25, 1942, at New Orleans, he received his training at U. S. Naval Station, Algiers, La. He served then on detached duty at the Headquarters, Eighth Naval District, Pilottown, La. From there he was transferred to Convoy Control Center, Pilottown, La., doing the assembling of convoy orders and routine office work. He served then at the Personnel and Training Command, (Receiving Station) Naval Repair Base, Algiers, La., in charge of office, Brig and Prison Classification Unit. Yeoman Second Class Correnti was given an honorable discharge at New Orleans on Feb. 2, 1946. He is the son of Frank and Rita Kaiser Correnti, 4422 Elba St., New Orleans.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





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① George Luttmann, Jr.

PFC, U. S. Army

Husband of Mrs. Sadie Bolatte Luttmann, 1000 Joliet Street, New Orleans. He was born Aug. 2, 1922, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Luttman, New Orleans. He attended Robert E. Lee School and was in business when inducted into the U. S. Army July 13, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. After training at Camp Barkeley, Abilene, Texas, and Camp Reynolds, Philadelphia, Pa., he embarked July 26, 1944, for overseas service. In Europe he served in England, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe as a medical aid man. He fought in the Rhineland, in the Ardennes Forest, and across Central Europe. With the Fiftieth Medical Battalion, attached to the Fourth Infantry Division, he received a commendation for meritorious service in the Hurtgen Forest under constant fire from heavy enemy artillery. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the Combat Medical Badge. He was honorably discharged Feb. 27, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

② Christian Sensebe, Jr.

Private First Class, U. S. Army

Husband of Jacqueline Elaine Sensebe and father of Christian Sensebe III, 3513 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana. He was born Jan. 5, 1920, and attended John Laughlin School. Inducted March 31, 1944, he received his training at Camp Beauregard, La. On Jan. 10, 1945, he embarked for the European Theater where he served in France and Germany, and participated in the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. Private First Class Sensebe has the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on April 6, 1946. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Christian Sensebe, Sr., 3513 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, La.

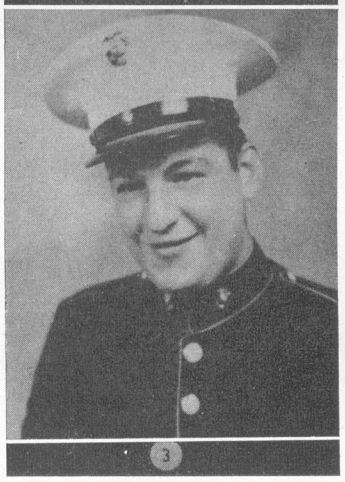
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



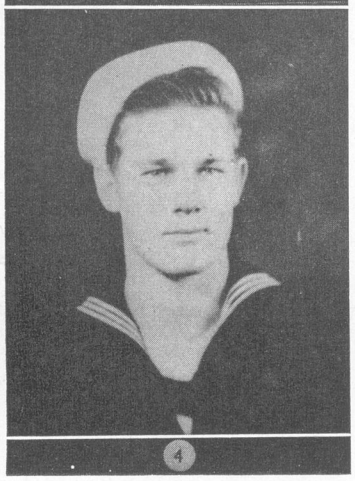
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① Errol Christian Lagasse

Chief Storekeeper, USCG

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris William Lagasse, 425 Ninth St., New Orleans. He attended Live Oak Grammar School, Samuel J. Peters High School, and was a general clerk and stenographer when inducted Jan. 30, 1942, by the U. S. Coast Guard. From the U. S. Naval Training Station at Algiers he was assigned to the District Coast Guard Office, the Naval Supply Depot, and the Coast Guard Receiving Station at New Orleans in succession. From New Orleans he was sent to the Coast Guard Air Station, Biloxi, Miss. After more than four years of unselfish and devoted service to his country he was honorably discharged April 4, 1946, at New Orleans. Chief Storekeeper Lagasse remained on duty with the U. S. Coast Guard within the Continental United States throughout the war years and after.

② Clinton William Lagasse

Yeoman, First Class, USCG

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Chris William Lagasse, 425 Ninth St., New Orleans. He attended Live Oak School, Samuel J. Peters High School, and Edward Douglas White High School and was a general clerk and stenographer when inducted into the service of the U. S. C. G. Oct. 26, 1942. From the Coast Guard Training Station at New Orleans, he was assigned to the Coast Guard Captain of the Port Office, Brownsville, Texas. Other assignments in the States included the Coast Guard Patrol Base, Wilmington, Cal.; the Coast Guard Beach Patrol Station, Brownsville, and the District Coast Guard Office, New Orleans. On May 18, 1944, he embarked for New Caledonia, and served aboard USS LST 24 in the North, Central, and South Pacific areas from June 26, 1944, to Oct. 19, 1945. He participated in the heavy fighting of the Invasions of Guam, Morotai in the Netherlands East Indies, Leyte in the Philippine Islands, Luzon on Lingayan Gulf in the Philippines, and Okinawa in the Ryukyus Group. Yeoman First Class Lagasse was discharged with a certificate of honorable service May 23, 1946, at New Orleans.

③ Martin Anthony Buras

Sergeant, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Martin Louis and Maggie Buras, 1435 North Derbigny St., New Orleans, La. He was born May 21, 1922, attended Samuel J. Peters High School and was employed at the New Orleans Port of Embarkation prior to entering the service. He was inducted at New Orleans, Sept. 26, 1942, and received his training at Camp Elliott, San Diego, Cal. On March 12, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he served at Melbourne, Australia; New Guinea; Cape Gloucester, New Britain; Russell Islands; Okinawa, and China. He participated in campaigns at New Guinea, Cape Gloucester and Okinawa. Sergeant Buras was given an honorable discharge at San Diego, Cal., on Jan. 3, 1946.

④ John Meyers, Jr.

Seaman First Class, U. S. Navy

Husband of Lois Meyers, 2457 Urquhart St., New Orleans, La. He was born Sept. 19, 1923, attended Bogalusa schools, and was employed at the Higgins Shipyard prior to entering the service. He was inducted at New Orleans, May 8, 1942, and received his training as Armed Guard Gunner at the Armed Guard Center, Brooklyn, N. Y., and at the Armed Guard Center, Treasure Island, Cal. On June 28, 1942, he embarked for overseas, and served in the American Theater, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater, and the European Theater, as a Gunner aboard the vessels: SS Patrick J. Hurley, SS E. W. Sinclair, SS Wildwood, SS Sahale, SS El Mundo, SS Lonejack, SS Mission San Antonio and MS Masthead Knot. Seaman First Class Meyers has the Silver Star Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans, Oct. 22, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Meyers, Sr., 1130 Music St., New Orleans, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





① GEORGE BRYANT

Corporal, Army Air Corps

Husband of Gerty Mae Brouillette Bryant, Marksville, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Adam Bryant, Centerpoint, Avoyelles Parish. He has two sons, Greggory Reagan and Gerald Kenneth. He was born July 5, 1920, and was educated at LaFargue School, and was engaged in the lumber business and farming at the time of his induction May 17, 1943. Assigned to the Army Air Corps he was stationed at Amarillo, Texas, Army Air Base as an interviewer and classifier. On Oct. 29, 1944, he embarked for New Guinea and served overseas as a service record clerk. He fought in the campaigns of Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, and the liberation of Luzon in the Southern Philippines. He has the American Theater Campaign Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with four Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory Medal. He also received a Distinguished Unit Badge. On Nov. 30, 1945, he was discharged with a certificate of honorable service at Camp Fannin, Texas.



② JOHN HENRY PATERNOSTRO

First Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Mrs. Dorothy Paternostro, 961 North Carrollton Avenue, New Orleans. He was born March 31, 1918, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Salvador Paternostro. He attended Warren Easton High School and Louisiana State University and was a clerk for Public Belt Railroad prior to entering the U. S. Army Sept. 11, 1941, at New Orleans. He served in the Quartermaster Corps at Fort Warren, Wyo., Camp Custer, Mich., and Camp Shanks, New York. Oct. 1, 1943, he embarked for England and served in England, France and Belgium with the Quartermaster Corps. He served in the campaigns of Normandy, France and Belgium as first sergeant in the Quartermaster Corps. He was honorably discharged after four years of unselfish service at Fort Meade, Md., on Sept. 3, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Edward J. Meyer, Jr.

Corporal, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Meyer, 1514 Constance St., New Orleans. He was born Nov. 19, 1922, and attended St. Michael's Grammar School, Redemptorist High School, and was a receiving clerk for Sears Roebuck & Company when he enlisted in the Army Air Forces Oct. 27, 1942, at New Orleans. He was stationed at Lake Charles Army Air Base, Victoria Army Air Base, Victoria, Texas; Lincoln Army Air Base, Lincoln, Nebr., and Chanute Field, Rantoul, Ill. He also served at Davis Monthan Field, Tucson, Ariz., and Biggs Field, El Paso, Texas. Corporal Meyer embarked for England Feb. 2, 1944, and was stationed at Andover Hants, England. He served at Isigny, St. Lo, Alencon, and St. Quentin, France, and at Florennes and Zwartsburg, Belgium. In Germany he was stationed at Guterschloss and Mannheim. He took part in the Air Offensive over Europe, the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes, and Central Europe. He has six battle stars for these campaigns on the European Theater of Operations Ribbon, a Presidential Unit Citation for outstanding achievement, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged Sept. 19, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Hattiesburg, Miss.

② Ramon A. Oriol III

Corporal, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Dr. and Mrs. R. A. Oriol, 5215 South Derbigny St., New Orleans, La. He was born June 2, 1924, attended Jesuits High School, and was employed by the U. S. Maritime Service prior to entering the service. He was inducted at New Orleans on Dec. 3, 1942, and was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for Boot Training, to Seattle, Wash., for Guard Duty, and then to Camp Elliott, Calif., for Combat Training. On Jan. 2, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served at New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Guam, and Iwo Jima. Corporal Oriol participated in the campaigns at Guam and Iwo Jima. He was given an honorable discharge at San Diego, Calif., on Dec. 25, 1945.

③ Anthony John Terranova

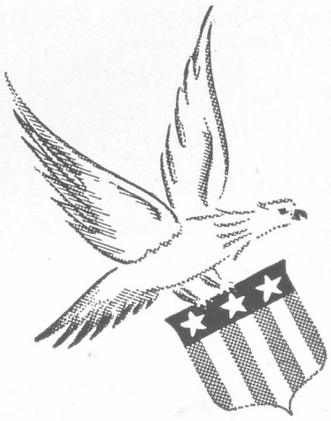
Technical Sergeant, U. S. Marine Corps

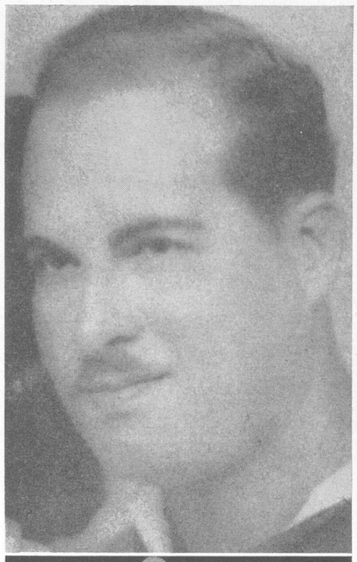
Husband of Dorothy Robertson, and father of John and Sandra Terranova, 3825 Fairmont Drive, New Orleans, La. He was born Oct. 12, 1915, attended St. Aloysius College, and had his own butcher business prior to entering the service. He was inducted at New Orleans on July 6, 1942, and was assigned first to the Cooks' and Bakers' School as an instructor at the Marine Corps Base, San Diego, Calif., and was then sent to Camp Pendleton, Calif., serving as a Mess Sergeant. On July 22, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he served as a Mess Sergeant at Camp Tarawa, Kamuella, Hawaii; and at Sasebo, Japan, in the same capacity. Sergeant Terranova participated in the Battle of Iwo Jima. He was honorably discharged at the Marine Corps Base, San Diego, on Nov. 30, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Terranova, 3113 Maurepas St., New Orleans, La.

④ Joseph T. Hilman, Jr.

Private First Class, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mrs. J. T. Hilman, 1534 St. Roch Ave., New Orleans, La. He was born Jan. 6, 1926, attended S. J. Peters High School and Spencer's Business College, and was employed by the Southern Railway in New Orleans prior to entering the service. He was inducted Dec. 17, 1943, received his Boot Training at San Diego, Calif., and was then assigned to Co. I, 3rd Bn., 28th Marines, 5th Division, as Machine Gunner, Camp Pendleton, Calif. In Oct., 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, participating in the Invasion of Iwo Jima on Feb. 19, 1945. He was killed in action on the third day of the invasion, Feb. 21, 1945, and buried in the Fifth Marine Division Cemetery at Iwo Jima. The Purple Heart was presented to his mother on April 24, 1945. Private First Class Hilman had also the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, and the Presidential Citation.

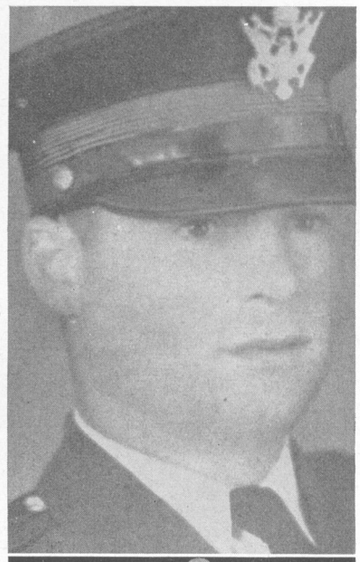




① HENRY FRANCOIS CASSAGNE

Electrician's Mate 1/C, U. S. N.

Husband of Lee Anna Matherne Cassagne, 4238 Cadiz Street, New Orleans, and father of Mari Anne Cassagne. He was born March 26, 1917, the son of Dominick Marcelin and Marion Leidenheimer Cassagne, and attended Wilson School, Alcee Fortier High School and Tulane University. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on July 14, 1941, at New Orleans, he was assigned for recruit training to the U. S. Naval Training Stations at Norfolk, Va., and St. Louis, Mo. He served with USCLS and MWS, 15th ND Section Base, at Balboa, Canal Zone, then returned to the States to the Naval Amphibious Training Base at Norfolk, Va., from which he was assigned to sea duty with USS LST 1089. Returning to the Receiving Station at Treasure Island, Calif., he was granted his honorable discharge at the U. S. Naval Separation Center, New Orleans, on Sept. 29, 1945.

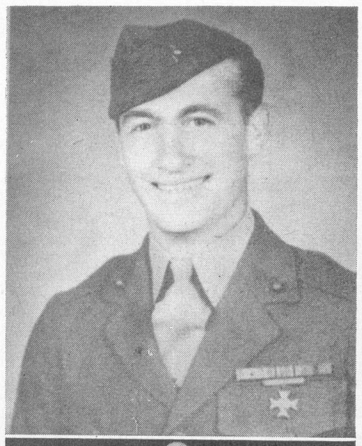


② GEORGE H. CASSAGNE

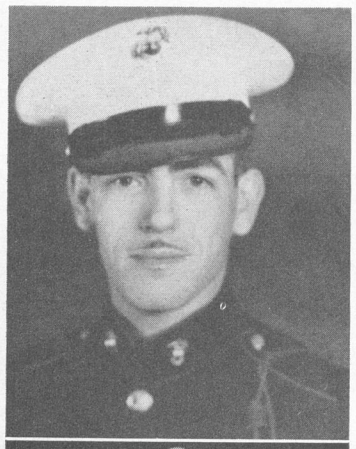
Lt. Col., Infantry

Husband of Ernestine Condon Cassagne, 3109 Jena Street, New Orleans, and father of Catherine Eleonore Cassagne. Son of Dominick Marcelin and Marion Leidenheimer Cassagne, was born May 29, 1913. He attended Incarnate Word and Jesuits and was a construction inspector prior to entering the Infantry Nov. 16, 1940, at New Orleans. He served at Camp Blanding, Fla., Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Fisher, N. C., Camp Bowie, Texas, Fort Dix and Camp Kilmer, N. J. On Sept. 15, 1942, he went to the European Theater and served in England, France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg, assigned to duty as executive to deputy for operations in France and with the 13th Infantry in combat. Landing on D-Day plus five, he fought in Normandy, Northern France and the Rhineland and has three Campaign Stars and the Combat Infantry Badge. He was released from active duty Dec. 25, 1946, at Fort Bragg, N. C.

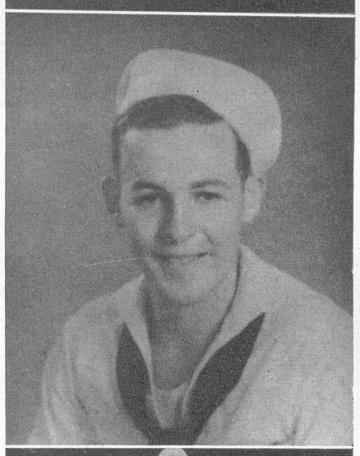
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



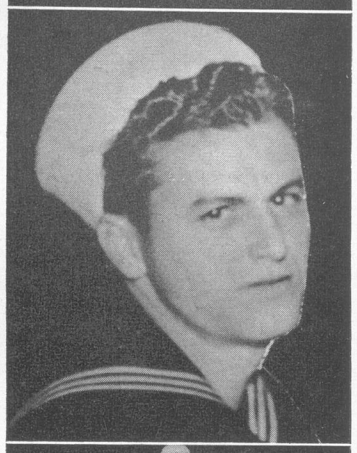
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② Robley Francis Poche

Aviation Cadet, U. S. Army Air Force

Husband of Emma Lee Mary P. Poche, and father of Carol Anne and Sylvia Ann Poche, 2026 Mazant St., New Orleans, La. He was born June 26, 1915, attended L. S. U. and Soule's Commercial School, and was General Cashier prior to entering the service. He was inducted Dec. 22, 1942, at New Orleans, and served at San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center, as Aviation Cadet. He was honorably discharged at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on March 27, 1943. He had previous service with the U. S. Marine Corps from 1933 to 1937, as Private First Class, and he served also with the 10th Bn. Fleet Marine Corps Reserve from 1937 to 1939, with the rank of Sergeant. He is the son of Francis Clarence and Pearl Vivian Poche, 7900 Jeannette St., New Orleans, La.

③ Carrol Joseph Bourgeois

Shipfitter Second Class, U. S. Navy

Husband of Myrtle Dake Bourgeois, 4023 Washington Ave., New Orleans, La. He was born Feb. 26, 1918. He was inducted into the Construction Battalion on Aug. 9, 1942, at New Orleans, and received his training at Camp Allen, Va., and at Camp Bradford, Va. On Feb. 5, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, serving as a Dozer Operator in Construction work at Maui, Hawaii, at Saipan, and in other places in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater. He was given an honorable discharge at New Orleans, Oct. 24, 1945. He is the son of Violet T. Carpenter, 545 Third St., New Orleans, La. Though he was inducted Aug. 9, 1942, he was not called to active duty until October 25, 1942.

① Francis Clarence Poche

Sergeant

Son of Mrs. Pearl Folse Poche, 7900 Jeannette St., New Orleans, La. He was born Oct. 3, 1920, and attended St. James High School and Fortier High School. After extensive training in this country, he embarked for the Pacific Theater of Operations. He served at Numea, New Caledonia in Oct. and Nov. of 1943, went to Guadalcanal, and then to Bougainville, where he spent two months. He was then transferred back to Numea, New Caledonia. After serving for a year overseas, he was returned to the United States, and on June 5, 1944, he was given an honorable discharge at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Oakland, Calif.

④ Joseph N. Herbert

Machinist Mate Third Class, U. S. Navy

Husband of Estelle Duke Herbert, and father of Jo-Ann Herbert, 4023 Washington Ave., New Orleans, La. He was born Dec. 23, 1916, attended McDonough No. 7 School, and was a retail meat dealer prior to entering the service. He was inducted at New Orleans on Aug. 9, 1942, and received his training at Camp Allen, Va.; Camp Bradford, Va.; Camp Lejeune, N. C.; and Camp Endicott, Rhode Island. In March of 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served at New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, and Bougainville. He participated in the campaign at Bougainville. Machinist's Mate Herbert was awarded the Unit Citation. He was honorably discharged at Santa Cruz, Calif., on Aug. 22, 1944. He is the son of Nicholas A. Herbert, 4023 Washington Ave., New Orleans, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Doris Marie Poche

First Lieutenant, U. S. Army Nurses Corps

Daughter of Mrs. Pearl Folse Poche, 7900 Jeanette St., New Orleans, La. She was born Nov. 28, 1918, attended Eleanor McMain High School and Charity Hospital School of Nursing, and was Operating Room Nurse prior to entering the service. She was inducted August 18, 1942, at Fort Sill, Okla., and served as General Duty Nurse at Fort Sill; the Louisiana Maneuver Area; Camp Chaffee, Ark., and Camp Barkley, Texas. On Sept. 7, 1943, she embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served as General Duty Nurse at Brisbane, Milne Bay, Hollandia, Aitape, Leyte, San Carlos, and Manila. She was given an honorable discharge at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Feb. 9, 1946.



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② Mazie Poche Tillman

Staff Sgt., U. S. Marine Corps Women's Reserve

Wife of Allen Douglas Tillman, of Rayville, La. She was born Oct. 26, 1917, and attended St. James High School, Tulane University Night School, Louisiana State Normal College, and was a clerk with the War Shipping Administration prior to entering the service. She was inducted May 5, 1943, at New Orleans, and served as Pay Clerk, Recruit Depot, at Camp Lejeune, New River, N. C. From there she was transferred to the Office of Assistant Secretary of Navy for Air, Washington, D. C., serving as Stenographer. Sergeant Tillman was given an honorable discharge at Washington, D. C., Sept. 17, 1945. She is the daughter of Mrs. Pearl Folse Poche, 7900 Jeannette St., New Orleans, La.



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③ Wanda Elizabeth Poche

Second Lieutenant, U. S. Army Medical Corps

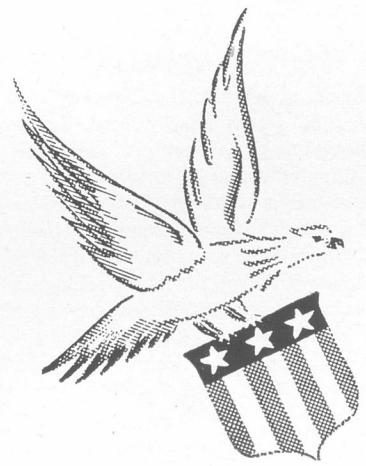
Daughter of Mrs. Pearl Folse Poche, 7900 Jeannette St., New Orleans, La. She was born Nov. 9, 1912, attended St. James High School, Louisiana State Normal College, and was a teacher of primary grades prior to entering the service. She was inducted July 28, 1943, in the Women's Army Corps; received her Basic Training at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., and attended Army Administration School at Nacogdoches, Texas. At Fort Dix, New Jersey, she served as File Clerk and was head of the Locator Section. She was a Physical Therapy Student at O'Reilly General Hospital, Springfield, Mo., and became a Physical Therapist at the Regional Hospital, Camp Shelby, Miss., in Feb., 1946. Lieut. Poche has the WAAC Service Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Victory Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, and the Meritorious Service Insignia. She is still in active service.

④ Allen Douglas Tillman

Lieutenant (jg), U. S. Navy

Husband of Mazie Poche Tillman, 7900 Jeannette St., New Orleans, La. He was born June 9, 1917, attended Southwestern Louisiana Institute and L. S. U., and was Professional Chemist with the U. S. Army Chemical Warfare Service prior to entering the service. He was inducted Oct., 1943, at Birmingham, Ala., and received his training at Fort Schuyler, N. Y.; Navy Yard, Washington, D. C.; Chemical Warfare School, Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland; U. S. N. A. D., Hingham, Mass.; Bomb Disposal School, Washington, D. C.; Gunner's Mate School, Pontiac, Mich.; A. A. T. C., Lido Beach, N. Y. He served as Ammunition Quality Evaluation Officer at A.A.T.C., Dam Neck, Va.; and from there was with the Bureau of Ordnance, Navy Department, Washington, D. C. He then served as A. Q. E. Officer at Anti-Aircraft Training Center, Point Montara, Calif. Lieut. Tillman is still in the service. He is the son of George Martin and Clara Heath Tillman, Rayville, La.





Joseph Francis Fitzhenry, Jr.

Paratrooper, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Fitzhenry, Sr., of New Orleans, La., was born Dec. 18, 1923. After attending school at the Holy Name of Mary and Behrman High School, he was employed as a boilermaker's helper at Todd-Johnson, Inc. Entering the Armed Forces in August, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Tooms for Paratrooper training. After completion of this course he was assigned to Fort Benning, Ga., where he received his Paratrooper wings on Dec. 25, 1942. He was next assigned to Camp Mackall and Fort Bragg. Departing for the European Theater in September, 1943, he served in England, France and Holland. He also saw action at Cherbourg, Carentan, Eindhoven and Zon. Joseph was fatally wounded Sept. 21, 1944, and was buried in the U. S. Military Cemetery No. 1 at Fasses, Belgium. He was the recipient of the Combat Infantryman's Badge, European Theater of Operations Ribbon with four Battle Stars, Good Conduct Medal and the Purple Heart.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Curtis Waldo Viguerie

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Lorena Marie Chapman Viguerie, 813 Foucher St., New Orleans, La. He was born March 7, 1917, attended Hanson Memorial High School, and did general oil field work prior to entering the service. Inducted Nov. 23, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, he received his Basic Training at Camp Kohler, Calif., and his training for active duty at Camp Crowder, Mo. On Nov. 12, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater, and was assigned to duty of installation and repairing of radios and telephones in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. Sgt. Viguerie participated in the campaigns at Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe. He was awarded the Unit Citation, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Nov. 9, 1945. He is the son of Mrs. Genevieve Viguerie, 813 Foucher St., New Orleans, La.

② Saverio Edward Valenti

Private First Class, U. S. Army

Husband of Elaine Arlt Valenti, and father of Keith Edward Valenti, 4027 Washington Ave., New Orleans, La. He was born on July 14, 1923, attended Hynes Trade School, and worked as a rigger prior to entering the service. Inducted Nov. 29, 1943, at New Orleans, he was assigned to Camp Flora, Miss., and Red River Ordnance Depot, Texarkana, Texas, for training and repairing motorized equipment. On Aug. 6, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, serving in Southern England, France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia, as a Combat Infantryman with the First Infantry Division. PFC Valenti participated in the campaigns at Rhineland and Central Europe, receiving the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster on March 6, 1945, and April 15, 1945. He has also the Bronze Star Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, 1st Division French Croix de Guerre, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Dec. 17, 1945. He is the son of Frank and Ethel Valenti, 827 North Dorgenois St., New Orleans, La.

③ Albert Jules Connolly

Chief Warrant Officer, AUS

Husband of Ruth Louise Penick Connolly, 4222 Egan St., New Orleans. He attended Warren Easton High School and Tulane University at New Orleans. Entering the Army of the United States May 21, 1942, he went to Camp Pickett, Va., for Infantry Basic, then to Camp Blanding, Fla. He took part in the Tenneseee Maneuvers of April, 1943, and was made Chief Warrant Officer at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin. Embarking from Camp Shanks, N. Y., on Nov. 17, 1943, he went to England for further training and service, and served with a Quartermaster Truck Company in England, France, Belgium, and Germany. Chief Warrant Officer Connolly fought in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, Central Europe, and the Rhineland, and has the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with five bronze Campaign Stars. He served overseas in foreign duty for 25 months.



④ Robert Edgar Lynch

Coxswain, U. S. Navy

Husband of Marguerite B. and father of Robert Edgar Lynch, Jr., 6624 St. Claude Ave., New Orleans. He was born Nov. 9, 1919, attended Porterville High School in Miss., and worked for the Delta Shipbuilding Company prior to his entrance into the service. He was inducted June 28, 1944, at New Orleans, and was assigned to training at the U. S. N. T. C., San Diego, Calif., the Amphibious Training Base, Oceanside, Calif., then to the U.S.S. Okanogan as Coxswain with Ships Beach Party. On Feb. 14, 1944, he embarked for overseas aboard the ship U.S.S. Okanogan APA 220, assigned to transporting assault troops and equipment during the invasions on various islands in the Pacific. After the surrender of Japan, he participated in the occupation of Japan. He took part in the invasion of Okinawa, the Philippine Liberation, and the last skirmishes prior to the occupation of Japan. Coxswain Lynch received an honorable discharge at the U. S. Naval Air Base at New Orleans, on Jan. 21, 1946. He is the son of Sallie A. Lynch of York, Ala.

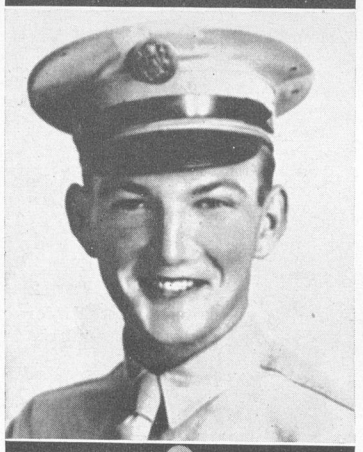
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Neal Ory

Private First Class, U. S. Army

Husband of Mrs. Yvonne Rita Ory, 1427 Cambronne St., New Orleans. He was born March 4, 1918, attended Walter C. Flower School, and was an assistant chemist prior to entering the service. He was inducted Nov. 19, 1942, in New Orleans, and he was assigned for training as a medical aid man and a jeep driver to Camp Howze, Camp Claiborne, and Camp Kilmer. On Sept. 20, 1944, he embarked for Europe, and he served in Scotland, England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. Private Ory participated in the campaigns of Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the Bronze Star Medal, the European Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was given an honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Dec. 30, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Abel Ory, 8601 Willow St., New Orleans, La.

② Lester Francis Vicknair, Sr.

Corporal, U. S. Army Air Force

Husband of Dolores Lavin Vicknair, and father of Lester Francis Vicknair, Jr., 1427 Cambronne St., New Orleans. He was born May 9, 1921, attended Leon Godchaux High School, and was a proof press operator prior to entering the service. He was inducted Aug. 14, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, and was assigned to Keesler Field, Miss., for Basic Training; New Orleans Army Air Base for Aircraft Mechanic School; Miss. Ordnance Plant, Jackson, Miss.; to Ammunition School; and to Camp Kilmer, N. J. On Nov. 15, 1943, he embarked for England, and was assigned to the motor pool for service in England, France, and Germany. Corporal Vicknair participated in the campaigns of the Rhineland, Central Europe, Normandy, and Northern France. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Oct. 21, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Vicknair of Mt. Airy, La.

③ Herman Holmes Hunstock

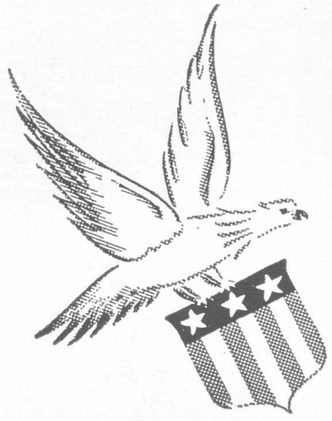
Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Mamie E. Sheets, 929 Aline St., New Orleans, La. He was born April 16, 1917, and attended New Orleans schools. Inducted July 8, 1942, at New Orleans, he received his Basic Training at Fort Knox, Ky., training as Tank Driver at Camp Hood, Texas, and Fort Jackson, S. C., and he embarked for the European Theater from Camp Miles Standish, Boston, Mass., on Dec. 28, 1943. Sergeant Hunstock served as a Tank Driver in France, Belguim, Holland, and Germany, and he participated in the campaigns at Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Germany. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Nov. 10, 1945.

④ Joseph A. Bel

Corporal, USMCR

Husband of Gladys Edwards Bel, Beulaville, N. C., and son of Jeff Sidney and Eleanore C. Fontenette Bel, 832 Valance St., New Orleans. He attended St. Stephen's School, St. Henry's School, and S. J. Peters Commercial High School, New Orleans, where he enlisted in the Regular U. S. Marine Corps Nov. 20, 1940. From the Marine Corps Base at San Diego, Cal., he went to Point Loma, Cal., and Camp Lejeune, New River, N. C., serving as a rifleman, a member of the MP on guard duty, a machine gunner, Post Exchange clerk, truck operator, librarian, and telephone repair man. He served overseas from the end of Jan., 1942, to May, 1944, as rifleman, machine gunner and MP guard in the Pacific area and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, ATO Ribbon, American Defense Service Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. He also served in Post Exchange work and as librarian and telephone repairman. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp LeJeune, N. C., Aug. 23, 1945.







① Earl Clifford Gillen

Chief Quartermaster, U. S. N.

Son of Mrs. Nora Clementine Grebe, East End, Jefferson Parish, New Orleans. Born Oct. 14, 1920, he attended Beauregard Grammar School and Warren Easton Boys' High School, New Orleans, prior to his induction Sept. 6, 1939, into the United States States Navy at New Orleans. Throughout the entire war years Chief Quartermaster Gillen was engaged in convoy duty on naval vessels plying their way to and from the world's war fronts. His convoy duties took him into dangerous enemy territory many times during his service. After five years of unselfish service with the United States Navy, Chief Quartermaster Gillen received his certificate of honorable discharge Oct. 2, 1945, at Camp Sheldon, Va.

② William Joseph Donnelly

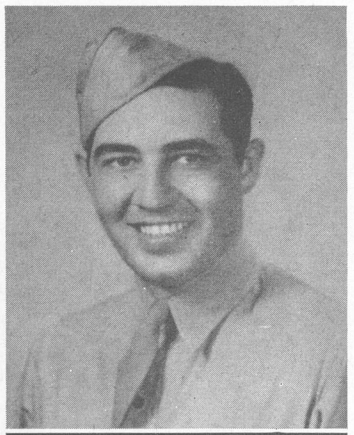
Lieutenant, U. S. Marine Corps Reserve

Son of Mrs. Leona M. Donnelly and the late Joseph T. Donnelly of New Orleans, La., was born Dec. 12, 1917. Lieut. Donnelly graduated from Holy Cross College, New Orleans in 1935 and was an employee of New Orleans Public Service prior to entering the Marine Corps. He enlisted Dec. 15, 1941, and after recruit training was a member of the Second Marine Raider Battalion during operations in the South Pacific. He was recommended for a field appointment to Second Lieutenant on Bougainville, British Solomon Islands, in December, 1943. In April, 1944, while a member of the 28th Marines, Fifth Marine Division, he received his commission. He served with this organization during operation against the enemy on Iwo Jima and during the initial phases of occupation on Northern Kyushu, Japan. He received a letter of commendation with ribbon for performance of duty in action on Iwo Jima.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Edward Anton Garey, Jr.

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Garey, Sr., 2620 Palmyra St., New Orleans, La. He was born Nov. 29, 1917, attended Warren Easton High School, and was a bookbinder prior to entering the service. He was inducted into the Tank Corps on May 21, 1942, at Camp Livingston, La.; received his Basic Training at Camp Wheeler, Ga.; served as Security Sergeant at Camp Gordon, Ga.; was Section Sergeant at Camp Bowie and Camp Hood, both in Texas; and he was then transferred to Fort Jackson, S. C., where he served as Platoon Sergeant in the 812th Tank Battalion. Sergeant Garey has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Gordon, Ga., on Jan. 13, 1946.

② Shava J. Carboni

Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Thelma May Carboni, 3328 Toledano St., New Orleans, La. He was born April 1, 1919, and attended Fortier High School. He was employed by Higgins Shipbuilding Industries prior to entering the service. Inducted Dec. 18, 1942, he received his training at Camp Maxey, Texas, and at Camp Shanks, N. Y., from where he embarked for overseas on Feb. 11, 1944. Corporal Carboni served as Cannoneer in England, France, Germany, and Austria, and participated in the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe campaigns. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Dec. 14, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss. Corporal Carboni is the son of Joseph and Theresa Carboni, 3230 Washington Ave., New Orleans, La.

③ Louis Philip Pitre

Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

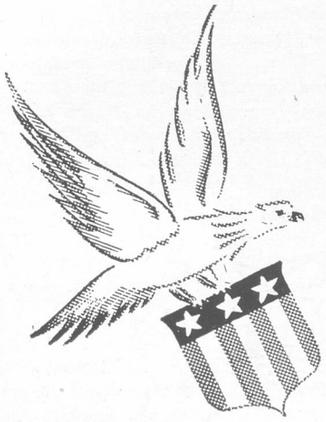
Son of Mrs. Beulah Pitre, 4826 Magazine St., New Orleans, La. He was born Oct. 25, 1923, and attended Fortier High School. Inducted into the service Dec. 5, 1942, he received his training at Sheppard Field, Texas; Ardmore Air Base, Okla.; Pope Field, North Carolina; and Maxton Army Air Base, N. C. On Sept. 19, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served as a Glider Mechanic, Airplane Mechanic, and Aerial Engineer, in England, France, and Germany. Sergeant Pitre participated in the campaigns of Northern France and Central Europe. He has the European Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Dec. 22, 1945.

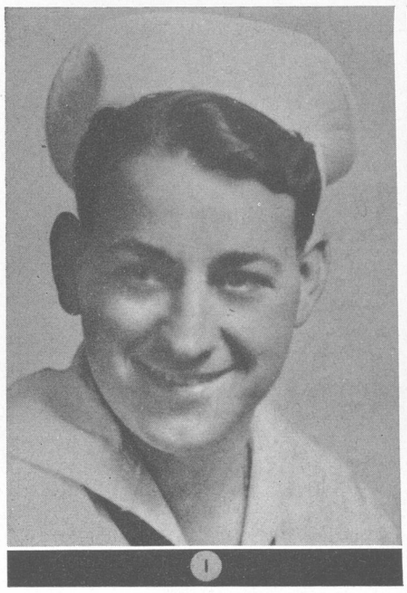
④ Eugene Norbert Pitre, Jr.

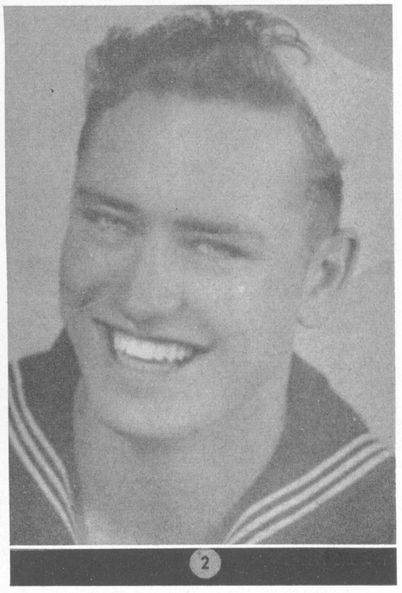
Second Lieutenant, U. S. Army Air Force

Son of Mrs. Beulah Pitre, 4826 Magazine St., New Orleans, La. He was born Oct. 21, 1921, and attended Fortier High School. He was inducted at New Orleans, Sept. 26, 1940, and received his training at Barksdale Field, Delgado Trade School, Chanute Field, specializing in the mechanics of airplane engines only; then transferring to the Aviation Cadets, he completed his Pilot Training, went through Cal-Aero Academy at Ontario, Cal., and finished his training at Williams Field, Ariz., where he received his commission of Second Lieutenant as Pilot of a P-38. On August 30, 1943, he embarked for Algeria, North Africa, and he served as a Fighter Pilot in Tunisia, Sardinia, and Sicily. He then moved to Italy with the 8th Army, and served on combat missions through Italy until Dec. 16, 1943, when he failed to return. Lt. Pitre was listed as Missing in Action from Dec. 16, 1943, to Sept. 6, 1945, after which death was declared as of a presumptive finding of death. The Purple Heart was awarded posthumously to his mother on Sept. 18, 1945, for wounds he received in action.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA







① Edmond Honore Odinet

EM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Sallie Taylor Odinet, 6620 St. Claude Avenue, New Orleans, and father of Edmond Charles Odinet. He was born Jan. 23, 1922, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Honore Edmond Odinet, Arabi, and attended Warren Easton High School. He was an electrician prior to induction April 24, 1944. He attended Naval Training Center, San Diego, and Naval Training School, St. Louis, Mo., prior to being assigned to the Training and Distribution Center, Shoemaker, Cal. On November 11, 1944, he left for Ulithi, serving aboard the USS Cowpens (CVL 25). He saw action at Formosa, Luzon, in French Indo China, China, at Iwo Jima, Wake Island and Japan. He served in the Magic Carpet Service from October, 1945, to February, 1946, and was on the first American Carrier to enter the waters of Tokyo Bay. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with four Battle Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Battle Stars, and the American Theater Ribbon. He was commended by his commanding officer for action Dec. 17 and 18, 1944, and by the Secretary of the Navy for action on Dec. 10, 1945. He received his honorable discharge Feb. 6, 1946, at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans.

② Abram Davis Hunt

Torpedoman 3/C, U. S. N.

Husband of May Botsay Hunt, 2505 Pauger Street, New Orleans. He was born Aug. 23, 1923, the son of Myrtle Counts Hunt and Abram David Hunt of Winchester, Tenn. Entering the United States Navy (Regular) on Aug. 16, 1941, at Chattanooga, Tenn., he served at the United States Naval Training Station at Algiers, New Orleans, and the United States Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi, Texas. On March 4, 1943, he embarked for the South Pacific area where he served with the USS Bell DD 587, assigned to duty with the Third U. S. Fleet, the Fifth U. S. Fleet, and the Seventh U. S. Fleet. He also served on occupation duty with the Seventh U. S. Fleet in the Korea and China area. Torpedoman Hunt was in combat in the Campaigns of Iwo Jima, Leyte and Luzon in the Philippine Islands, in the Marshalls, New Ireland, Truk, Borneo, New Guinea, Mindoro, Mindanao and other parts of the Pacific battle front. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with six Bronze Campaign Stars, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon and Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars and World War II Victory Medal. He was continuing to serve with the United States Navy (Regular).

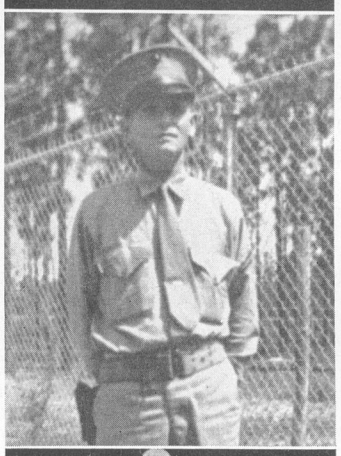
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Carlos J. Sperandeo

Chief Petty Officer, U. S. Navy

Husband of Agnes Sperandeo, 3915 Delgado Ave., New Orleans, La. He was born June 26, 1905, attended Warren Easton High School, and was a representative of National Distillers prior to entering the service. He was inducted Dec. 18, 1942, at New Orleans, and was assigned first to Camp Peary, Va., then to Camp Rousseau, Calif., in charge of the Commissary Department. On April 7, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, in charge of the Commissary Department while aboard the President Johnson troop transport, and was then assigned to 22nd Special U.S.N.C.B., serving at Honolulu, New Caledonia, Milne Bay, Los Negros, Biak, and Manus. In the Admiralty Islands, the outfit was a Stevedore unit, doing excellent work in loading and unloading supplies for the Philippine invasion, for which the unit received two citations from the Commodore of the Base. Chief Petty Officer Sperandeo was honorably discharged at New Orleans, La., on Nov. 18, 1945. He is the son of Benniditto and Julia Sperandeo, 3915 Delgado Ave., New Orleans.

② Leslie Bernard Anderson, Jr.

Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Rose Mohr Anderson, and father of Leslie Melvin Anderson, Box 269, Downman Road, New Orleans, La. He was born May 23, 1923, attended Warren Easton High School and was an Electrician's Helper at Delta Shipbuilding Company prior to entering the service. He was inducted Feb. 18, 1943, and was assigned to the Medical Crops at Kearns, Utah; attended surgical school at El Paso, Texas; and was a medic in the dispensary at Drew Field, Tampa, Fla., and at St. Louis, Mo. On April 26, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and drove an ambulance for the 35th Fighter Company at New Guinea, Southern Philippines, Ie Shima, Mindoro, Leyte, and Luzon. Corporal Anderson participated in the Air Offensive over Japan, the campaigns at Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, Southern Philippines, Luzon and in the Western Pacific. He has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with six bronze stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was awarded the Purple Heart on March 8, 1945, off Mindoro. He was honorably discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, Nov. 13, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Bernard Anderson, Sr., New Orleans, La.

③ Frank Arbuthnot

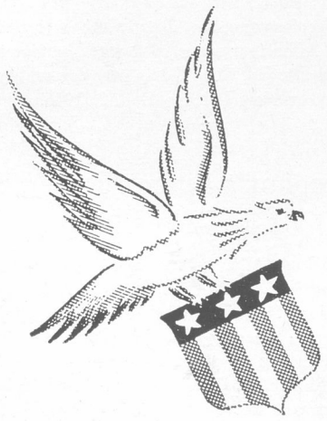
Corporal, USMCR

Husband of Alma McKay Arbuthnot of Zachary, father of Annie Maude and Frances Elizabeth Arbuthnot. He was born Aug. 17, 1898, and is the son of Herman Franklin Arbuthnot and Maude Duke of Hammond. He was connected with the laundry business prior to entering the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve on Feb. 16, 1942, at Jackson, Miss. He served at the United States Naval Air Station, Pensacola, with a Marine Detachment, and was granted his honorable discharge at the U. S. Naval Air Station, Pensacola, on Aug. 15, 1944.

④ Roy Jackson Jones

Lieutenant (jg), USNR

Husband of June Shirley Thompson Jones, 308 South Cherry St., Hammond, and father of Judith Maudeen Jones. He was born Oct. 10, 1917, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Farris Richard Jones, Amory, Miss. He attended Southeastern Louisiana College and was a seafood inspector prior to entering the U. S. Naval Reserve Nov. 27, 1942, at New Orleans. He served as athletic director, U. S. Naval Hospital, Key West, Fla., and embarked Oct. 27, 1944, for Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, where he served at the U. S. Naval Supply Depot as cargo officer and at Manana Receiving Barracks as Company Supervisor. He was honorably released from duty Dec. 18, 1945, at New Orleans.

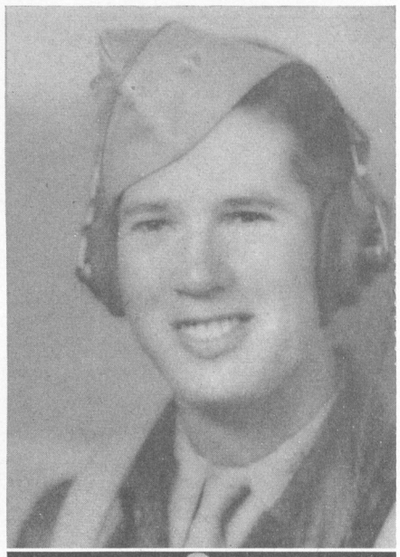




① SALVADORE J. ALTOBELLO

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Jean Meyer Altobello, 8520 Pritchard Place, New Orleans. He was born Oct. 2, 1918, and attended St. John's Parochial, J. P. Benjamin, Alcee Fortier High and Warren Easton High Schools, and was a welder and salesman prior to his induction May 24, 1944, at New Orleans. After basic training at Camp Fannin, Texas, he was sent to the Infantry Replacement Center at Fort Meade, Md., and left Nov. 3, 1944, for the European Theater of Operations. He was a rifleman with the Ninth Infantry Division in Germany, a driver with the 493rd Ordnance HAM Company in France and shop clerk with the 864th Ordnance HAM Company in Germany. Sergeant Altobello was in the bitter fighting of the Battle of the Belgian Bulge in the Ardennes Forest and in the Campaign of Germany. He was wounded in action against the enemy at Duren, Germany, Nov. 27, 1944, and received the Purple Heart.

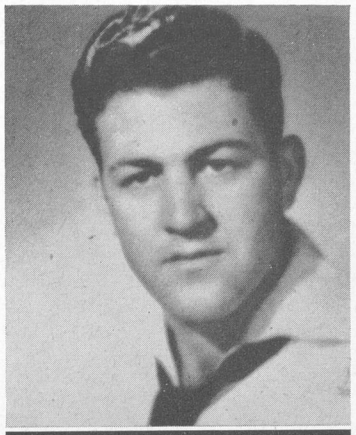


② EDMOND E. BARDY, JR.

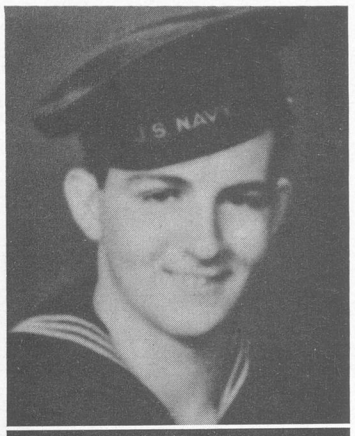
Lieutenant, Army Air Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edmond E. Bardy, Picayune, Miss. He attended St. Francis Xavier and Metairie High School and was an auditor prior to his induction Dec. 7, 1942, at San Antonio, Texas. He was a cadet (pilot) at Randolph Field, San Antonio and Savannah, Ga. From Greenville, S. C., he went to St. Angelo, Texas, where he graduated as bombardier and navigator, and Harlingen, Texas, as turret gunner. On Aug. 17, 1944, he left for Corsica as bombardier and navigator on a B-25 for the bitter fighting in Italy, where he won the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Air Medals and three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Silver Star before crashing to his death Nov. 10, 1944, in Pisa, Italy. "For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight as bombardier of a B-25 type aircraft," his last citation reads in part, "Lieutenant Bardy flew in an attack upon a railroad bridge at Ostiglia, Italy. After destroying his target, both engines of the stricken B-25 suddenly failed and he was unable to parachute out before the bomber crashed to the ground. His selfless devotion to duty and outstanding proficiency in combat reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the USA." He is interred near Pisa, Italy.

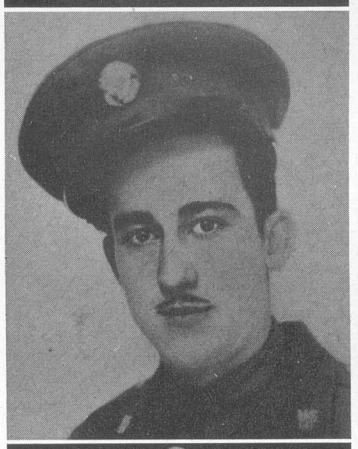
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Fredick William Klein, Jr.

Machinist's Mate, 2/C, U. S. N.

Son of Fredick W. Klein, 264 Audubon St., New Orleans, La. He was born Dec. 2, 1923, and was educated at Audubon School, Alcee Fortier High School, and Delgado Trade School prior to his induction in the U. S. Navy Dec. 15, 1941. Assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif., he completed his training and was assigned to the USS Sirius and stationed at Ford Island, Pearl Harbor. Later he was stationed at Johnston Island, at Newport, Rhode Island, and the USS Goodrich. In January, 1942, he went to Pearl Harbor and was assigned to a bomb target boat. He served in foreign waters aboard the USS Sirius and the USS Goodrich. He served in the American Theater of Operations and throughout the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign, with more than four and one-half years' devoted service to his country.

② Robert Alvin Klein

Signalman 2/C, U. S. N.

Husband of Gerardine A. Manzoni, 264 Audubon St., New Orleans. He was born July 29, 1925, and attended Audubon, St. Francis of Assisi, and Alcee Fortier Schools prior to his induction Dec. 15, 1941. He was assigned to the U. S. Destroyer Base, San Diego, and after training there and in Bremerton, Wash., he was assigned to USS Arocet, USS Wisconsin, and then to the Fleet Signal School, San Diego. On April 15, 1942, he sailed for Pearl Harbor. He was stationed in the Aleutian Islands, Fleet Air Wing 4, Third and Fifth Fleet. He was with the Third Fleet Landing Force, Yokosuka Naval Base. Japan. He has the American Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with six bronze stars, representing Okinawa, Iwo Jima, Luzon, Attu, Mindoro, and the bombardment of Japan. He has the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star and the Victory Medal with one star. He was commended for his superior performance of duty while attached to a fast carrier force. After four years of devoted service to his country, Signalman Second Class Klein was honorably discharged from the Navy at New Orleans Dec. 2, 1945.

③ George's Lucion Thore, Sr.

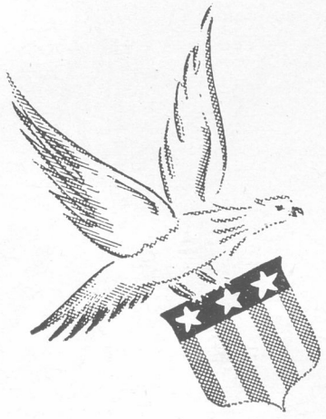
Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Zelpah Alice Swain Thore, and father of George Lamar, Jr., and Mackwill Louis Thore, Box 157, Bunnell, Fla. He was born Jan. 14, 1919, attended St. James Major, and was a painter prior to entering the service. He was inducted into the Field Artillery on April 14, 1940, received his Basic Training at Camp Shelby, Miss.; served as a truck driver at Camp Sutton, N. C.; and as a mechanic at Camp Blanding, Fla., Camp Gordon, Ga.; Fort Riley, Kansas, and Fort Sill, Okla. On July 1, 1945, he embarked for the European Theater, and served with Motor Transportation as a mechanic in France and Germany. Sergeant Thore participated in the campaigns at Northern France, Riems, and Metz. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal with two Battle Stars, the European Theater of Operations Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Aug. 9, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Thore, 3907 St. Ferdinand St., New Orleans, La.

④ Marcel Lucion Thore

Private First Class, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Thore, 3907 St. Ferdinand St., New Orleans, La. He was born Oct. 27, 1923, attended St. James Major, and was an Arc Welder at Higgins, Inc., prior to entering the service. He was inducted at Camp Beauregard on March 1, 1943, and received his Basic Training at Camp Beauregard, La. He was then assigned to Camp Claiborne, La., as a Baker. From there he was transferred to Camp Chaffee, Ark., serving as a Tank Driver. PFC Thore has the Good Conduct Medal. After two years in the service he was given an honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Feb. 14, 1945.





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① Woodrow O'Quin Owen

Lieutenant (jg), USNR

Husband of Naomi Beaucoudray Owen, 17 Metairie Court, New Orleans, and Florala, Ala., and son of Rezon Alexander and Maude Elizabeth Kelly Owen of Fayette, Miss. He attended Hinds Junior College, Raymond, Miss., and Mississippi State College (BS degree), serving as an entomologist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture prior to enlisting in the United States Naval Reserve at New Orleans on November 7, 1942, with the rating of pharmacist mate second class. After two months at Pensacola Naval Hospital, Fla., he transferred to the Post Medical Detachment, Marine Barracks, Parris Island, S. C., in sanitation, hygienic, inoculation and inspection work. On Feb. 15, 1944, he was commissioned ensign DV (S) and went to Hollywood, Fla., for officers' indoctrination, transferring to the Armed Guard School, Gulfport, Miss., and the anti-aircraft training base at Shell Beach, La. From Brooklyn he embarked for duties afloat July 29, 1944, in the Atlantic and the Caribbean as armed guard officer on the merchant vessel SS Henry Grove. He served in many European, African and Caribbean ports and is authorized to wear the American and European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbons. Lieutenant Owen was honorably discharged Nov. 15, 1945, at New Orleans, La.

② Leo Ott Rhea

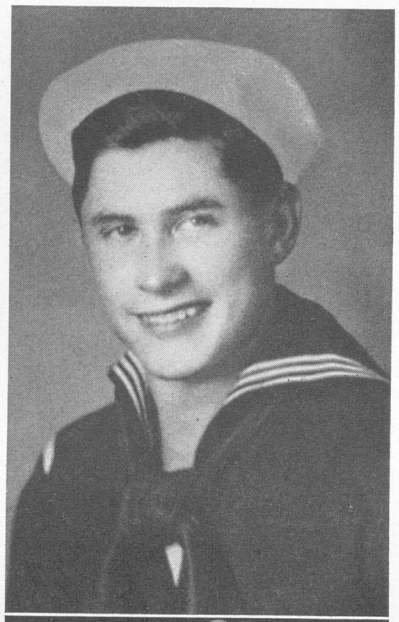
First Lieutenant, Army Air Corps

Husband of Florence Legue Rhea, 506 W. Beardsley Street, Champaign, Ill., and son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph X. Rhea, 2722 Camp Street, New Orleans. He attended Alcee Fortier High School and Tulane University prior to his induction Feb. 29, 1943. Assigned to the Army Air Corps, he received his training at Sheppard Field, Texas, Peabody College at Nashville, Maxwell Field, Ala., and Bennetsville, S. C. At Shaw Field, S. C., he took up basic flying, and advanced flying at Freeman Field, Ind. He studied B-17 transition at Chanute Field, Ill., and was assigned to a crew at Lincoln Air Base, Neb. Combat pilot practice followed at Pyote and Biggs Field, Texas, prior to embarkation at Camp Kilmer. In October, 1944, he landed in England as first pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress with the 96th Bombardment Group, Eighth Air Force. Lieutenant Rhea fought in the great air battles of Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four Battle Stars, and one Overseas Service Bar. He was honorably discharged Oct. 11, 1945, at Fort Sheridan, Ill.

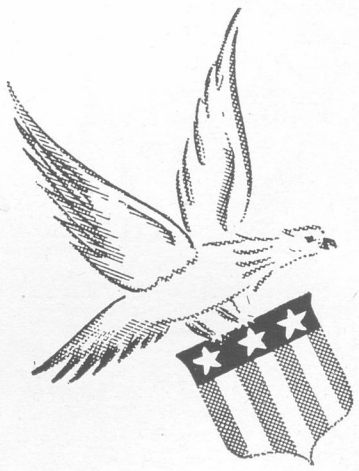
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Arthur Cecil Brabham

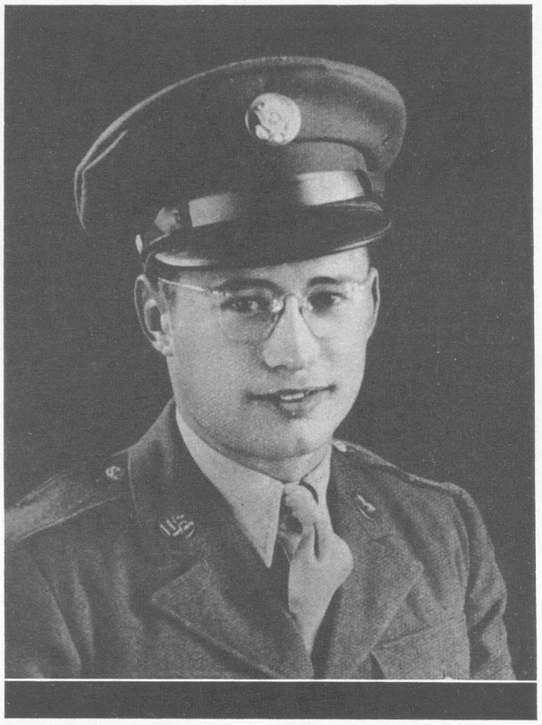
S/Sgt., Army Air Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lea Andrew Brabham, 2720 Edge Street, New Orleans. He was born Aug. 16, 1923, and was educated at Gentilly Terrace and P. A. Capdau Schools, Hynes Prevocational School and Delgado Trade School. On Feb. 18, 1943, he enlisted in the U. S. Army Air Corps at New Orleans. He trained extensively at Keesler Field, Biloxi, Miss., at Laredo Army Air Field, Laredo, Texas, at Salt Lake City Army Air Base. He was stationed in Boise, Idaho, Topeka, Kan., and at Camp Beauregard. He left the United States April 16, 1944, with Italy as his destination. Sergeant Brabham tragically lost his life in an airplane accident on his way overseas, en route to the war front in Europe. He was killed just prior to going into action against the enemy on the battle line.

② Marvin Lea Brabham

Seaman 1/C, U. S. N.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lea Andrew Brabham, 2720 Edge Street, New Orleans. He was born April 13, 1921, and attended Gentilly Terrace, P. A. Capdau and Samuel J. Peters High School and was with a large hosiery manufacturing concern at the time of his entering service Jan. 5, 1942, at New Orleans. He was assigned to the United States Naval Training Base in San Diego, Calif. From there he was assigned to his ship, the USS Mississippi, on which he served and fought until his death. He left for the South Pacific in February, 1942. Seaman Brabham was in the fighting in the South Pacific at many places of which his family and friends do not know. It is known, however, that prior to his death he fought in the Fiji Islands, the Gilbert Islands, the Aleutian Islands and others. He received a fatal wound May 11, 1944. The Purple Heart was mailed to his family. This gallant navy man fought for two years in the South Pacific before losing his life in action.





David Allen Brabham

Staff Sergeant, Air Corps

An aircraft and aircraft engine mechanic, was born June 28, 1922. He attended Gentilly Terrace, P. A. Capdau, S. J. Peters High and International Correspondence School and was a chemist in civilian life. Entering the Army Air Corps June 10, 1942, he was stationed at several fields in this country before going to England as a member of the 564th Bomb Squadron and 389th Bomb Group. Taking part in the great air offensive over Europe and the campaigns of Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Normandy, the Ardennes, the Balkans and the Rhineland, he received seven Battle Stars for the above-mentioned campaigns, a Presidential Unit Citation and medals for Good Conduct and the European Theater. He received his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Sept. 2, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① John Francis Maylie

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

Son of the late William H. Maylie, and Eugenie Lavedan Maylie, 3121 Napoleon Ave., New Orleans, La. He was born on Feb. 12, 1916, and atended St. Matthias Parochial School, St. Aloysius High School, and Delgado Trade School. He was inducted into the service at New Orleans, Sept. 22, 1942, and was assigned to Blytheville, Ark., as Radio Inspector (M. O. S. 898), and Radio Mechanic (M. O. S. 754), and was then transferred to Tyndall Field, Florida, serving as Radio Mechanic, (M. O. S. 754). The two years, eleven months Sgt. Maylie spent in the service were spent on duty here in the United States. He was honorably discharged at Tyndall Field on August 17, 1945.

② Albert Lee Burt

Private First Class, U. S. Marine Corps

Husband of Marion Francis Burt, 5322 Eastern St., New Orleans, La., he was born Sept. 17, 1925, and attended Jonesboro schools. He was inducted at New Orleans on Feb. 18, 1943, and received his training at the Marine Recruit Depot, San Diego, Calif.; Kearney Mesa, Calif.; Marine Air Station, Mojave, Calif.; and Vero Beach, Fla., assigned as a mechanic and truck driver. On Oct. 29, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he served at the Naval Air Station, Ewa, Oahu, Hawaii; and also at Midway Island. PFC. Burt has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, and the American Defense Service Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp LeJeune, N. C., on Feb. 7, 1946. He is the son of Johnnie B. and Jessie Itelia Phillips, of Jonesboro, La.

③ William Allen Royce

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Marine Corps

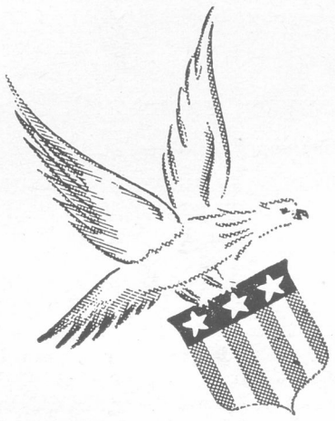
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel William Royce, 1003 Race St., New Orleans, La. He was born March 29, 1924, attended Fortier High School, and was employed by the Gulf Refining Co. prior to entering the service. He was inducted on Jan. 13, 1943, at New Orleans, received his Boot Training at San Diego, Calif., attended Mechanical School at Norman, Okla., and went to Instrument School at Chicago, Ill. He served in the Pacific Theater at Eua, Mafuro, Kwjalein, Roi, Namur, and Okinawa, assigned to Aircraft instrument work, Air Group 31. Sgt. Royce participated in campaigns in the Marshall Islands, and at Okinawa. He has a Presidential Citation. He was honorably discharged at San Diego, Calif., Nov. 21, 1945.

④ George A. Chittenden

Corporal, U. S. Army

Husband of Birdie Chittenden, 723 State St., New Orleans, and son of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Chittenden. He was born March 20, 1909, and attended Thomas J. Semmes, Charles E. Gayarre, and St. Michael Schools and Jesuit High School and was coach and manager at St. Francis of Assisi. He entered the Army January 13, 1941, at Jackson Barracks and trained at Camp Shelby, Fort Sill, Okla., Camp Blanding, Fla., and Fort Dix, N. J. He was assigned to duty as a utility repair man and supply sergeant. On Aug. 20, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater of Operations and served in Africa, Italy, Southern France, and Germany as an armorer, truck operator, and assistant supply sergeant. He was in action against the enemy at Naples-Foggia, at Rome-Arno (Anzio), in Southern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the Bronze Star Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Bronze Indian Arrowhead, the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal. This valiant soldier was granted his honorable discharge Sept. 26, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

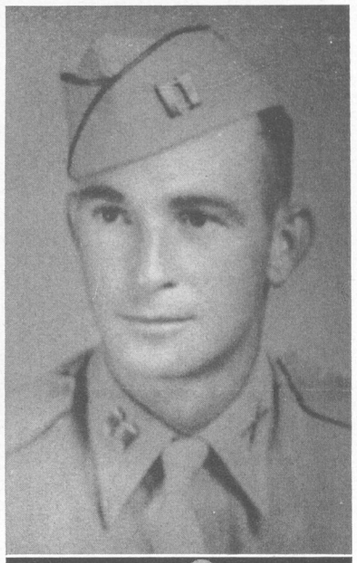




① LOUIS J. HERRMANN, JR.

Captain, Infantry, AUS

Husband of Norma Frances Herrmann, 7904 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. Herrmann. He was born Sept. 27, 1922, and attended Gulf Coast Military Academy and Marion Military Institute prior to entering the Army June 28, 1942, at Fort Benning, Ga., where he attended Infantry School as an officer candidate, going to Camp Wolters, Texas, as instructor in the Infantry Replacement Training Center. On Feb. 8, 1943, he departed for Africa and served at the Second Replacement Depot camp site at Conistell, Algeria, and joined the Ninth Division as infantry platoon leader in Tunisia and Sicily, going to England for 81-millimeter mortar platoon training prior to going into combat in France as mortar platoon and heavy weapons commander. He fought in Tunisia, Sicily, Normandy and Northern France and was wounded in France July 14, 1944. Hospitalized in England, he remained there as infantry instructor with the AAF. He has the Purple Heart, Presidential Unit Citation and Combat Infantry Badge.



② THEODORE C. FROIS

Captain, FA, AUS

Husband of Lois B. Frois, 3700 Airline Highway, Metairie, and father of Theodore M. Frois. He was born Dec. 1, 1918, the son of Theodore L. Frois and Ella Frois Herrmann, and attended Alcee Fortier High School. He was with Woodward Wight Company prior to his induction into the Army on Jan. 10, 1941, at New Orleans. Captain Frois served with the Field Artillery at Camp Shelby, Miss., Fort Sill, Okla., Camp Van Dorn, Miss., Camp Maxey, Texas, and Camp Myles Standish, Mass. He went to England Sept. 29, 1944, and served as battery commander in France, Belgium and Germany. He fought in the Campaigns of Northern France, Central Europe, and the Rhineland, and has the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievement in performance of duty in action against the enemy. He was placed on inactive status Dec. 3, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



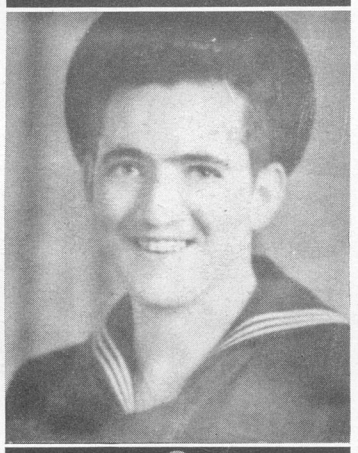
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① Anthony Dimarco

Private First Class, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Salvadore Dimarco, 2530 Cleveland Ave., New Orleans, La. He was born Feb. 2, 1915, and attended St. Joseph's School. He was inducted at Camp Beauregard on March 3, 1942, and was assigned first to Fort Benning, Ga., and then to Camp McCain, Miss., as a Cook's Helper. On Sept. 10, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served in England, France, and Germany as a Cook's Helper. Private First Class Dimarco participated in the campaigns of the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal with two bronze stars, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Jan. 8, 1946.

② Carlo Dimarco

Private First Class, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Salvadore Dimarco, 2530 Cleveland Ave., New Orleans, La. He was born Aug. 27, 1910, attended Samuel J. Peters High School, and worked as a clerk prior to entering the service. He was inducted at Camp Livingston on April 3, 1942, and was assigned to Camp Pickett, Fort Belvoir, Camp Bradford, and Fort Bragg, with the 36th Engineers doing bridge building and receiving amphibious and heavy weapons training. On Oct. 24, 1942, he embarked for North Africa, and he served as an Anti-Tank Gun Crewman in the campaigns of Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. PFC Dimarco has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal with eight bronze stars, the Bronze Arrowhead, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Sept. 17, 1945.

③ Angelo Anthony DiMarco

Seaman First Class, U. S. Navy

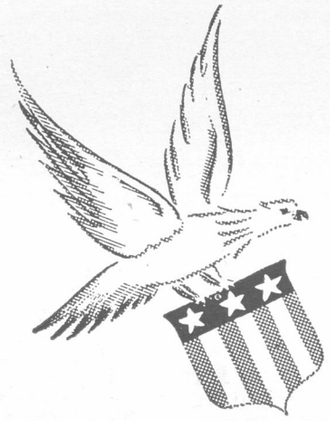
Husband of Edna DiMarco, 2530 Cleveland Ave., New Orleans, La., he was born May 21, 1922, attended McDonough School II, and was a waiter prior to entering the service. He was inducted at New Orleans on Sept. 18, 1943, and received his training at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif.; Amphibious Training at U. S. Navy Beach Battalion A, San Luis Obispo, Calif.; and at Portland, Ore. On May 28, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, serving and participating in the campaigns at Guadalcanal, Palau, Admiralty Islands, Hollandia, Luzon, Leyte, Samar, Sanda Port, Okinawa, Corregidor, and Guam. Seaman First Class DiMarco has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with three battle stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with two battle stars, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on Dec. 11, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Salvadore DiMarco, 2530 Cleveland Ave., New Orleans.,

④ Evaristo Marianno Martinez

Pharmacist Mate First Class, U. S. Navy

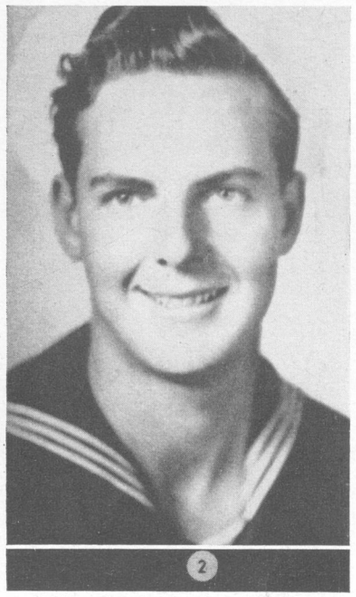
Son of Bessie LeBoeuf Martinez, 417 Elmira Ave., Algiers, La. He was born June 20, 1919, and attended Gulf Coast Military Academy at Gulfport, Miss., and also St. Aloysius College. He was inducted at New Orleans April 6, 1942, and received his training at U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif.; U. S. Naval Hospital, Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif.; U. S. Naval Hospital, Bremerton, Wash.; U. S. Receiving Station, Shoemaker, Calif., and the U. S. Naval Air Station, New Orleans. On April 6, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and he served at Milne Bay, Bun, Los Negros, and Noumea in New Caledonia. His duties consisted of patient evacuation by sea and air, in addition to his regular duties as a Clinical Laboratory Technician for the various activities to which he was assigned. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on Nov. 19, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





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① EMILE J. LINTINGER, JR.

United States Navy

Son of Emile J. Lintinger, 324 Vinet Street, and husband of Lucy Perez Lintinger, 1238 Dante Street, New Orleans. He was born Sept. 7, 1923, and attended Jefferson High School and Southeastern Louisiana College. He was an electrician prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve on Sept. 17, 1942, at New Orleans. He served at the United States Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi, Texas, the Naval Air Station at Alameda, Calif., Naval Air Technical Training Center, Seattle, and Pier 41, Seattle. On March 1, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific area and the Marshall Islands where he served on Tarawa, Ebeye Island, Eniwetok and Kwajalein. He was in combat in the Marshall Islands Campaign and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with Bronze Campaign Star, the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Ribbon and the American Theater Ribbon. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans May 1, 1946.

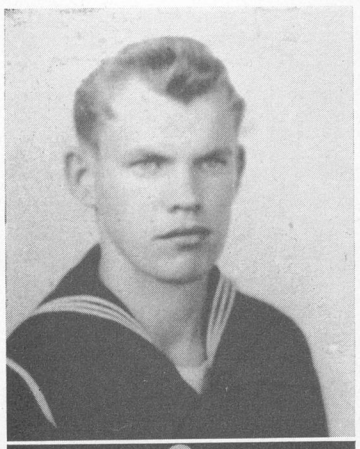
② CHARLES H. GRAVOIS, III

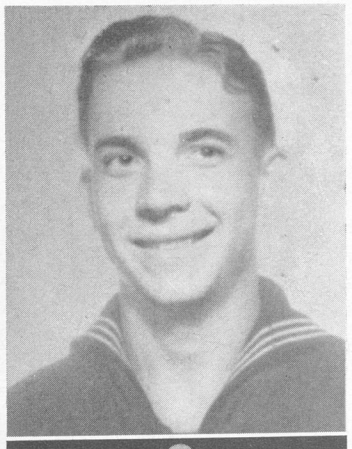
Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Gravois, Jr., of New Orleans, La. He was born Sept. 5, 1924, and is a graduate of the Holy Cross High School in New Orleans. He also attended the Delgado School in New Orleans. Charles is the husband of Margaret Gravois and father of Charles H. Gravois IV. He entered the U. S. Navy June 13, 1944.

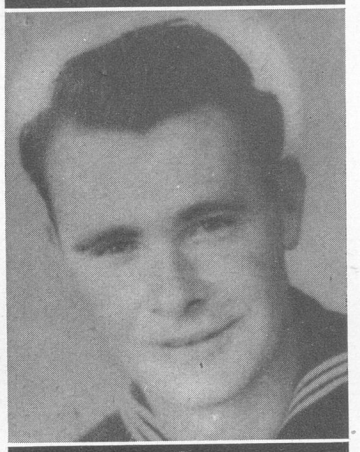
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The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA


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② Warren Alfred Nelson

Signalman 2/C, USNR

Son of Mr. Albert W. Nelson, 815 Solomon Place, New Orleans. He was born Nov. 28, 1925, and attended John Dibert and Warren Easton Schools. He was with the Garlock Packing Co. prior to entering the U. S. Navy Jan. 27, 1944, when he went to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, for boot training and Signalman School. Assigned to duty with the USS Windham Bay CVE 92, he embarked Aug. 25, 1944, for Pearl Harbor. He served on Manus in the Admiralties, Finschafen, N. G., Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides, Guadalcanal, B.S.I., Midway, Eniwetok in the Marshalls, Ulithi in the Carolines, Iwo Jima, Guam, Okinawa, Samar and Leyte in the Philippines, and Wake Island. He was in combat in the Iwo Jima Campaign (Feb., 1945), and Okinawa (April, 1945), and has the American Theater Ribbon and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two campaign stars. He was honorably discharged Jan. 16, 1946, at New Orleans.

③ James Jesse Bickford

Seaman First Class, U. S. N.

Husband of Gloria Margaret Bickford, Natalbany, and father of James Robert Bickford. He was born Dec. 27, 1920, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Robert Bickford, and attended Hammond High School. He was in construction work with Higgins Industries, New Orleans, and at the Navy Yard, Pearl Harbor, prior to entering the U. S. Naval Reserve July 27. 1944, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, he went to the Armed Guard Center, Naval Repair Base, San Diego, and Armed Guard Center Pacific, San Francisco. He embarked Dec. 14, 1944, for the Pacific Area and served with the SS Doninati and the SS Pine Bluff in the Southwest Pacific and USS LCI (L) 436 in Shanghai, China. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with star. He was honorably discharged Feb. 11, 1946, at the Naval Personnel Separation Center, New Orleans.

① Richard John Purcell

Carpenter's Mate Third Class, U. S. Navy

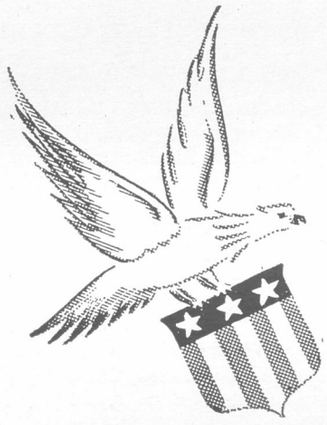
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Charles Purcell, 1611 North Broad Ave., New Orleans, La. He was born Nov. 20, 1923, attended Warren Easton High School, and was employed by Higgins, Inc., prior to entering the service. He was inducted at New Orleans, Jan. 14, 1943, and received his training at Camp Peary, Va.; Port Hueneme, Calif.; and Camp Parks, Calif. On April 18, 1943, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served at New Caledonia, Rendova, Munda, Russells, and Okinawa. He participated in the campaigns at Rendova, Munda, and Okinawa. Carpenter's Mate Purcell has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with three battle stars, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Navy Expert Rifleman Ribbon. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans on Jan. 31, 1946.

④ Joseph James Spellman

SM 2/C, U. S. Armed Guard

Son of Joseph Thomas and Myrtle Theresa Spellman, 3118 Washington Ave., New Orleans, La., he was born Feb. 24, 1923, attended Samuel J. Peters High School, and was employed by RCA Communications prior to entering the service. He was inducted May 23, 1942, and received his training at the U. S. Naval Station at Algiers, San Diego, Treasure Island, and New York. On Sept. 28, 1942, he embarked for the European Theater and he served at Australia, Palestine, Leyte, Manus, Tripoli, Libya, Sicily, and Okinawa. The campaigns in which he participated are the Tripoli, Libya, Sicily, and Sakashima. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the European Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and a Unit Citation. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans, Dec. 10, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA







① Charles Darwin Gueriniere

First Lieutenant, Army Air Corps

Husband of Mary Louise Gladu, Brooks Street, Lafayette, and son of Mrs. Mary Whittington Delaune, 7019 Louis the Fourteenth Street, New Orleans. He graduated from Cathedral High School in Lafayette and was a medical student at Louisiana State University when he volunteered for service in the Air Corps Jan. 19, 1942. He trained at Maxwell Field, Greenville Aviation School, Ocala, Greenville Army Flying School, and George Field, Ill., where he was commissioned. He attended Army Airfield Combat Crew School, Smyrna, Tenn., and piloted a B-17 at Blythe, Calif., and Rapid City, Iowa, before becoming a first lieutenant at Salina, Kan. On July 4, 1943, he left for foreign service in North Africa, and served in Africa, Tunis and Chateau Dun. He fought in the campaigns of Sicily, Italy, and France, with the 97th Bombardment Group, 414th Bombardment Squadron, the famed unit headed by Lieutenant Colonel Raines. Lieutenant Gueriniere was killed when his plane crashed Sept. 8, 1943, near Frascatti, Italy, during the fighting in Southern France, after he had come through the bitterly fought campaigns of Sicily and Italy. He was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously.

② Clifford Henry Cadis

First Lieutenant, Air Corps

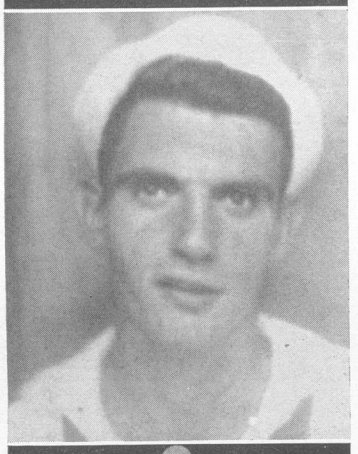
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Julien Curien Cadis, 923 Louisiana Avenue, New Orleans. He was born Dec. 7, 1923, and graduated from Alcee Fortier High School in 1941, enlisting in the Army Air Forces Nov. 4, 1942. He trained at Sheppard Field, Texas (basic), Wichita Kan. (college training detachment), Sikeston, Mo. (primary), Winfield, Kan. (basic flying), Pampa Texas (advanced), and Tucson, Ariz. (RTU). On May 16, 1944, Lieutenant Cadis embarked for Italy, where he served with the 450th Bombardment Group, 721st Squadron, 47th Wing, of the 15th Army Air Force. He fought in the air battles of the Rome-Arno Campaign, the Campaign of Southern France, and the Air Battle of Germany. Lieutenant Cadis has the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and a Presidential Citation (Group). He was honorably discharged June 27, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA


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① Frank Leonard Michel

Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Elizabeth Mary Michel, and father of Sandra Elizabeth and Cynthia Ann Michel, 300 Brooklyn Ave,, New Orleans, La. He was born Oct. 4, 1920, attended Allen Night School for one year, and was a salesman for Southern Dairy, Inc., prior to entering the service. He was inducted into the Transportation Corps at New Orleans, Nov. 27, 1943, and received his training at Camp Beauregard, La., Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Camp Bullis, Texas, Fort Snelling, Minn., and Camp Shanks, New York. In August, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and served as an operator of steam and diesel locomotives in France, Belgium, Germany, and Holland. Sergeant Michel participated in the campaigns of Northern France, Ardennes, and Rhineland. He has the Good Conduct Medal, the European-African, Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, the Belgian Unit Citation, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Dec. 18, 1945. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tornebene, 300 Brooklyn Ave., New Orleans, La.

② Albert Paul Gaude, Jr.

Captain, U. S. Army

Husband of Lucille Cancienne Gaude, 4035 Vincennes Place, New Orleans, La. He was born Feb. 21, 1920, attended Jesuits High School and Loyola University. He was inducted into the service July 27, 1942, at Sheppard Field, Texas, and served at Warner Robins, Ga.; Pendleton Field, Ore.; Pueblo Air Base, Colo.; Carlisle Barracks, Penna,; and Camp Shanks, N. Y. On June 1, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater, and was assigned to the Dental Service in England. Captain Gaude has the Presidential Citation with five battle stars. He was honorably discharged at Shreveport, La., on Oct. 5, 1945. He is the son of Albert Paul and Eva Stoltz Gaude, 847 Taft Place, New Orleans, La.

③ Anthony Paul Giglio

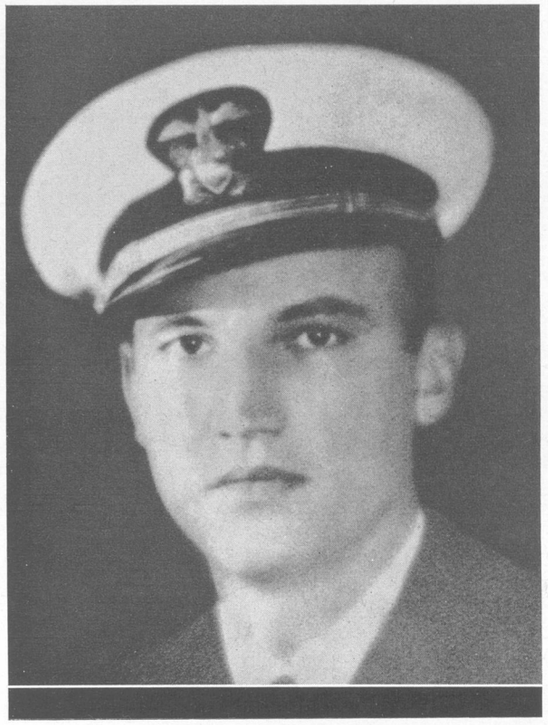
Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

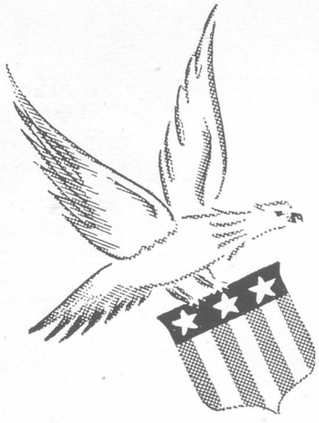
Son of Frank and Lillian Ortolano Giglio, 1313 St. Roch Ave., New Orleans, La., he was born April 28, 1917, attended Warren Easton High School and St. Aloysius College, and was employed as a clerk prior to entering the service. Inducted Feb. 6, 1942, at New Orleans, he received his training at Camp Beauregard, La.; Camp Polk, La.; Rice, Calif.; Indiantown Gap, Penna.; and Camp Pickett, Va. In Aug., 1943, he embarked for the European Theater, serving as first gunner in the Third Armored Infantry Regiment in England, France, Belgium, and Germany. Sergeant Giglio participated in the campaigns at Stolberg to the Ruhr, Ardennes, Rhineland, the Ruhr-Rose Pocket, St. Lo Soissons, Mons Westwall, Falaise, and the Drive to the Elbe. He was awarded the Purple Heart on June 29, 1944, and on Sept. 22, 1944, for military merit and for wounds received in action at Aachen, Germany resulting in his death.

④ Harold E. Delaune

Private First Class, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Theodule P. Delaune, 1416 St. Andrew St., New Orleans, La., he was born June 28, 1925, and attended Fortier High School. He was inducted on March 8, 1944, at New York, N. Y., and was sent to the Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C., from there to Sea School, Portsmouth, Va.; and was then assigned to the USS Randolph CV 15, as an Anti-Aircraft Gun Crewman. On Nov. 22, 1944, he embarked for Trinidad, and he served throughout the Pacific Theater as an Anti-Aircraft Gun Crewman. Private Delaune participated in the campaigns at Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and the occupation of Japan. He has the Purple Heart which he received at Ulithi, Western Carolines, on March 11, 1945, and he has also the American Defense Service Badge, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with three battle stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Bainbridge, Md., on Feb. 2, 1946.





John G. Menville

Commander, MC, U. S. N.

Husband of Myra L. Menville, 5536 Prytania Street, New Orleans, and father of John J. Menville, Jr., he is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Leon J. Menville. He studied at Jesuit High School and Tulane (MD, 1930), Charity Hospital, Johns Hopkins, Squier Clinic of New York, Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota, MS (Urology, 1936). Entering the Navy Feb. 11, 1942, he served at the Naval Station, Algiers, and the U. S. Naval Hospital, New Orleans (chief of urology, June 1, 1943, to Nov. 24, 1944, and Dec. 30, 1945, to Aug. 19, 1946). Embarking Dec. 3, 1944, for the Pacific, he served at USN Base Hospital 17, Hollandia, N. G., with USS LST 469, USS LST 667 (surgical team), and USS Blueridge, returning to the Base Hospital at Hollandia (chief of urology). He served in the Philippines and was at Lingayen Gulf, Luzon, on D-Day, Jan. 9, 1944, at Marivellas (Bataan) on D-Day and on Corregidor on D-Day. He was honorably released from active duty Aug. 19, 1946, at New Orleans.

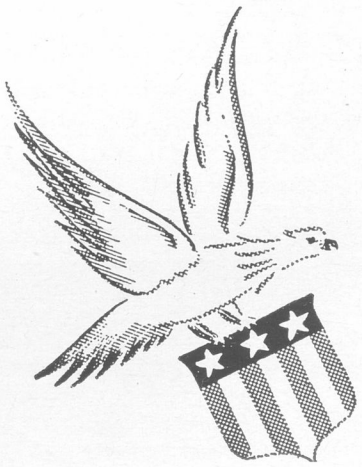
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



①



②



① Frank Xavier Armiger

Lieutenant Col., FA, AUS

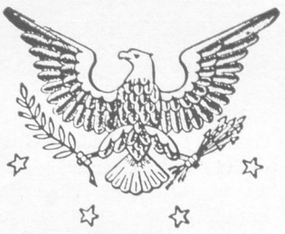
Husband of M. Emeilie Seyer Armiger, 5421 Burgundy Street, New Orleans, and father of M. Evelyn, Dolores and Frank Armiger, Jr. Grandson of Mrs. Lelia M. Bernos, 916 Jourdan Avenue, he was born July 9, 1913, and was a construction engineer for New Orleans Army Air Base, Municipal Airport. Entering the Louisiana National Guard as a private, he began active duty as a second lieutenant Jan. 13, 1941, at Jackson Barracks and served at Camp Shelby, Fort Sill, Okla., Camp Sutton, N. C., Camp Blanding, Fla., and returned to Fort Sill with the 141st Field Artillery Battalion. He went to Camp Bowie, Texas, as executive officer, 751st Field Artillery Battalion, 174th FA Group. He embarked July 12, 1944, for Europe and served in Scotland, Wales, England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the European Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Stars and American Defense Service Medal and received his certificate of honorable service Dec. 22, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

② Donald Lee Guedry

Tec/Sgt., U. S. Army

Husband of Dorothy Cary Guedry, Baronne Apartments, New Orleans, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Lee Guedry, 8209 Pritchard Place, New Orleans. He attended Jesuit and St. Aloysius Shcools and was engaged in the finance business at the time of his enlistment in the Army Air Corps March 28, 1942. He trained and served at Camp Shelby, Miss., Dorr Field, Fla., Marianna, Fla., Craig Field in Selma, Ala., Napier Field in Dothan, Ala., and Hendricks Field, Fla., as an administrative specialist (502). On Sept. 18, 1945, he embarked for overseas service, landing in Manila, Philippine Islands. He served in Manila and in Irumagawa, Japan, as administrative specialist and sergeant major. Sergeant Guedry has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Defense Ribbon, the World War II Victory Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal. He received his honorable discharge Feb. 4, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Texas, after almost four years of unselfish service in the Army Air Corps.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Marion Wellford

② Lewis D. Wellford

③ Donald Randolph Wellford

④ Paul B. Sussdorf

⑤ Henry Paul Credo

⑥ Edward Earl Munsch

⑦ Harold C. Graff

⑧ Douglas M. Curry

⑨ Ralph Milton Curry

⑩ George V. Curry

⑪ Gervais Sidney Curry

⑫ John E. Seymour

⑬ Albert M. Fitzmorris

⑭ John Edmond Fitzmorris

⑮ William Owen L. Fitzmorris

⑯ Bernard B. DelCarpio, Jr.

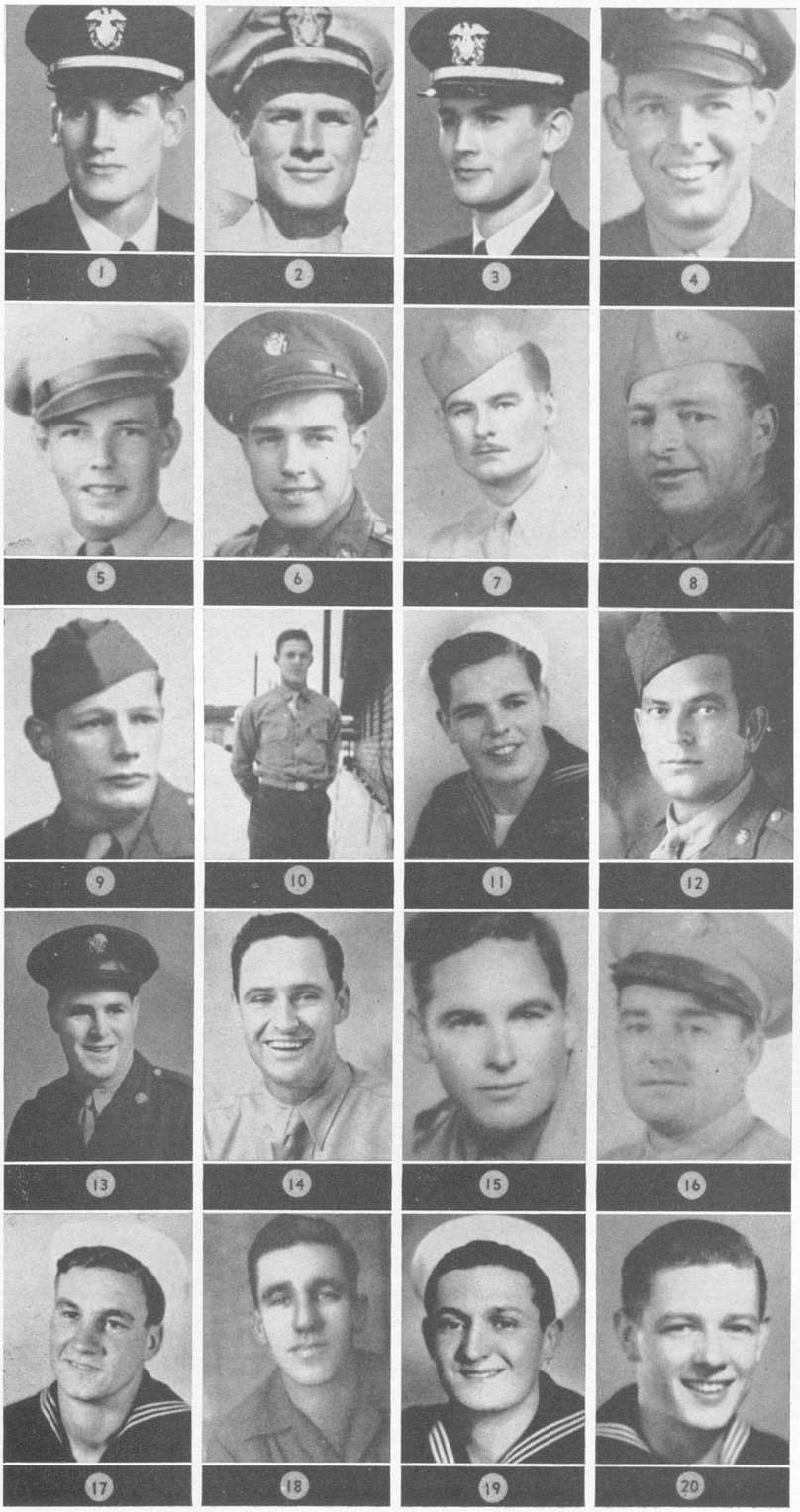
⑰ Noel J. Westerfield

⑱ Richard J. Westerfield

⑲ Joseph Leo Horil

⑳ Herbert Harold Horil





① MARION WELLFORD, Lieut. (jg), USNR

Son of Marion Roy and Henrietta Petterson Wellford, he was born Sept. 21, 1921, and attended Allen and Isidore Newman Schools and Tulane University. Entering the Naval Reserve on July 1, 1943, in the V-12 Reserve Officers' Training Corps Unit at Tulane, then went to the Subchaser Training Center at Miami. He served as the commanding officer of USS PYC 20, USS YF 876, and USS YF 890, embarking May 31, 1944, for Midway Island and Pearl Harbor. Lieutenant Wellford served aboard USS JET PYC 20 assigned to anti-submarine patrol in the Hawaiian Islands for 15 months and was ferry skipper for two of the Navy's smallest yard craft, sailing them from New Orleans to Pearl Harbor. He was discharged June 21, 1946.

② LEWIS D. WELLFORD, Lieut. (jg), USNR

Son of Marion Roy and Henrietta Petterson Wellford, he was born Sept. 6, 1920, and attended Henry Watkins Allen School, Isidore Newman High School and Southwestern at Memphis. On June 14, 1943, he entered the Naval Reserve at Columbia University, New York, going from there to the Naval Operating Base at Norfolk, Va., for gunnery practice aboard ship. Embarking Jan. 7, 1944, for the Pacific area, he served on Eniwetok, Kwajalein, Saipan, Iwo Jima, Guam and other battle points assigned to duty with oil tankers. He was discharged at Boston on April 15, 1946.

③ DONALD RANDOLPH WELLFORD, Lieut. (jg), U. S. Navy (R)

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Roy Wellford, he was born Sept. 21, 1924, and attended Isidore Newman High School and Tulane University College of Engineering. Entering the Naval Reserve on Jan. 23, 1942, he went to the Subchaser Training Center at Miami, Fla., for instruction. On Aug. 10, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific area where he served with USS PC 596 as gunnery officer, first lieutenant, navigator and executive officer. He served with USS PGM 24 as first lieutenant and navigator, and on USS YP 288 as commanding officer. He was in combat in the Bougainville Campaign and the Okinawa Campaign, and did escort work for convoys and anti-submarine patrols in the Solomons, the New Hebrides, the Marianas and Okinawa (the Ryukyus). He was discharged June 24, 1946.

④ PAUL B. SUSSDORF, FO, Air Forces

Husband of Marie I. Schnell Sussdorf. He attended Murphy High School, Mobile, Ala., and was a flying instructor and was engaged in the real estate business prior to entering the Army Air Forces March 3, 1941. From Maxwell Field, Ala., he went to Gunter Field and Cochran Field as an aircraft mechanic, and was a student pilot at Hemet, Calif., LeMoore Army Air Field and Luke Field. He received AAF training at Randolph Field, Berry Field, Brownsville Army Air Field and Reno Army Air Field, and served as a ferry pilot at Love Field. On May 25, 1945, he embarked for Tripoli in Libya and served as an ATC pilot from Casablanca to Cairo. He continued to serve in this capacity as flight officer throughout the remainder of his foreign service.

⑤ HENRY PAUL CREDO, Cpl., Air Forces

Son of Mrs. Mae Credo, he was born Nov. 16, 1924, and attended Jefferson High School. He was with H. G. Hill Stores prior to entering the Army Air Forces July 20, 1943, and went to Basic Training Center No. 10, Greensboro, N. C., Plant Park at Tampa, Fla., Dale Mabry Field at Tallahassee, Fla., Thomasville Army Air Base, Ga., Robins Field at Macon, Ga., Kearns, Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, and Camp Stoneman, Pittsburg, Calif. On Oct. 31, 1945, he embarked for San Tanerando, Luzon. He served in Manila with the 322nd Replacement Battalion to the 137th Replacement Battalion (Aviation) on Leyte at Tacloban. He has the American Theater and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbons, Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was discharged March 8, 1946.

⑥ EDWARD EARL MUNSCH, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Lillian A. Munsch, he was born Feb. 23, 1921, and attended Jefferson High School. Entering the service Oct. 10, 1942, Munsch was assigned to Lincoln Army Air Base for airplane mechanic training. He departed Feb. 7, 1944, for overseas and served as an airplane mechanic in Australia. Later Sergeant Munsch was sent to New Guinea, Manila, Philippine Islands, where he served in assembling reparable aircraft. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Star, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. Sergeant Munsch was discharged Jan. 6, 1946.

⑦ HAROLD C. GRAFF, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Husband of Bernadine G. Graff and son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Graff, he was born Jan. 26, 1918, and attended Live Oak and Alcee Fortier Schools. On June 20, 1941, he entered the Infantry and was assigned to Camp Shelby, Miss., and went to Camp Wheeler, Ga., for basic training in heavy weapons. He received Parachute training at Fort Benning, Ga., Fort Bragg, N. C., and Fort Dix, N. J. He received further Parachute training in England and took part in the airborne invasion of Africa, was interned in Spanish Morocco and returned to Algeria through Spain and Gibraltar, and served in French Morocco, Sicily, Italy and France. He fought in the campaigns of Algeria-French Morocco, Sicily and Naples-Foggia, and has the Good Conduct Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal. He was a prisoner of war for 19 months in Germany, liberated by the Russians April 22, 1945.

⑧ DOUGLAS M. CURRY, Staff Sergeant, AUS

Son of Mrs. Julia Matirne Curry, he was born Aug. 6, 1912, and attended Plaquemine High School. He was with Rheems Manufacturing Company prior to his induction into the Army on Oct. 16, 1942. He embarked for foreign service on May 7, 1945, going into combat in the Ryukyus Islands Campaign (Okinawa). Staff Sergeant Curry served for two years and seven months in the States and for nine months and five days in foreign duty. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with one Bronze Campaign Star, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged at Camp Fannin, Texas, on Feb. 20, 1946.

⑨ RALPH MILTON CURRY, Sergeant, Air Forces

Husband of Mary Elizabeth Curry, and father of Julia Ann Curry. He is the son of Mrs. Julia Matirne Curry, and was born Jan. 16, 1916. He is a graduate of Crescent and Plaquemine High Schools. He was a machinist and welder prior to his induction into the Army Air Forces on July 16, 1942. Sergeant Curry served at Clearwater, Fla., Stout Field at Indianapolis, Ind., where he served as an aircraft mechanic, and Sedalia Army Air Base, Warrensburg, Mo., assigned to duty as a mechanic. He served at Lincoln AAB, Neb., Consolidated Aircraft Corporation School at San Diego, Wendover Air Field, Utah, and March Field, Riverside, Calif., serving as an aircraft mechanic throughout. He has the Good Conduct Medal. Sergeant Curry was discharged (CDD) on Oct. 21, 1944.

⑩ GEORGE V. CURRY, Sergeant, Army

Son of Mrs. Julia Matirne Curry, he was born Aug. 28, 1921. He attended Plaquemine High School and was with Lane Cotton Mills prior to entering the Army July 30, 1942. Sergeant Curry served in the States to Dec. 9, 1944, when he went to the European Theater, then redeployed to the Pacific area July 21, 1945. He served for

two years and five months in the States and one year and two months in foreign duty, and has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Good Conduct and World War II Victory Medals, and was discharged Feb. 9, 1946.

⑪ GERVAIS SIDNEY CURRY, Aviation Ordnance, USN

Son of Mrs. Julia Matirne Curry, he was born March 4, 1926, and attended S. J. Peters High School. Entering the Naval Reserve on April 3, 1943, he served at the Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., and CASU No. 7 and Camp Squadron No. 5, San Diego. Assigned to duty with the USS Kitkun Bay, he served throughout the Pacific area and in the Philippine Islands and has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with five Bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Campaign Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon with Star in lieu of a second award, and World War II Victory Medal. He was discharged on March 12, 1946.

⑫ JOHN E. SEYMOUR, Tech/5, U. S. Army

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Tompson Seymour, was born April 21, 1915. He attended St. John's Catholic School and worked for McWilliams Dredging Company before entering the armed forces. He entered the Army Oct. 29, 1940. Departing Nov. 1, 1942, for the Middle Eastern Theater, he arrived there Dec. 12, 1942. For his services in this area, he was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon. He received his discharge Sept. 24, 1945.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑬ ALBERT M. FITZMORRIS, Tec/4, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin J. Fitzmorris, he was born Sept. 13, 1910, and attended St. Anthony School, serving as a telegraph clerk, a department store stock clerk, and a post office clerk prior to his induction June 17, 1942. He served with the Army Transportation Corps and was assigned to Fort Lawton, Wash., as a post office clerk and to Paine Field, Wash., with a port company. On May 11, 1944, Sergeant Fitzmorris embarked for Prince Rupert Island, British Columbia, where he served as Army mail orderly throughout his period of foreign duty. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal and Good Conduct Medal, and was discharged Sept. 22, 1945.

⑭ JOHN EDMOND FITZMORRIS, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Glenna Dorris Fitzmorris and son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin J. Fitzmorris, he was born Nov. 25, 1912, and attended St. Anthony and Isaac Delgado Trades Schools. On Jan. 6, 1941, he entered the Army and served at Camp Hulen, Texas, Camp Young, Calif., and Indiantown Gap, Pa. He embarked Aug. 6, 1942, for England and served in England, Scotland, Africa, Sicily and Italy. He fought in the campaigns of Algeria, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, the North Apennines and the Po Valley. Sergeant Fitzmorris has the Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with Battle Stars and the Bronze Indian Arrowhead for assault invasion over the beaches. He was discharged July 23, 1945.

⑮ WILLIAM OWEN LAWRENCE FITZMORRIS, Corporal, Army of the United States

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin J. Fitzmorris, he was born Feb. 16, 1916, and attended Our Lady of Lourdes and Alcee Fortier High School. He entered the Army Dec. 3, 1941, and trained at Camp Lee, Va., and Fort Benning, Ga. He embarked for Australia June 21, 1942, and served in Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines. He fought in the Campaigns of Southwest Pacific and the Philippine Liberation and returned to the States June 2, 1945, receiving his discharge several days later, after three years of unselfish service in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations.

⑯ BERNARD B. DelCARPIO, JR., Sgt., Army Air Forces

He was born July 28, 1913, and attended St. James Major Parochial School, Holy Rosary, St. Stanislaus College at Bay St. Louis, Miss., and Soule College. He was a steamship clerk for Standard Fruit and Steamship Company, New Orleans, prior to enlisting in the Army Air Forces April 3, 1942. He received infantry basic at Camp Grant, Ill., and served as a surgical first aid man at Hamilton Field, Calif. He embarked for England Nov. 26, 1942, and served in England as surgical first aid man and surgical technician assigned to the 83rd Fighter Squadron, 78th Fighter Group, for 34 months. He served in the Campaigns of the Air Offensive over Europe, Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe, and has the Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster and the Good Conduct Medal.

⑰ NOEL J. WESTERFIELD, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Sarah J. Westerfield, he was born Dec. 26, 1923, and is a graduate of S. J. Peters Boys' High School. He was with Delta Shipbuilding Corporation prior to his induction into the Naval Reserve on April 24, 1944. Seaman First Class Westerfield received his boot training at the Naval Training Station in San Diego, Calif. He embarked for the Pacific area on October 16, 1944, serving with the USS Saratoga, with which he fought in the Battle for Lingayen Gulf on Luzon in the Philippine Islands, in the Invasion of Okinawa in the Ryukyus Group, and on Ie Shima. He was discharged at New Orleans on Jan. 6, 1946.

⑱ RICHARD J. WESTERFIELD, Tec/5, Armored Force, AUS

Son of Mrs. Sarah J. Westerfield, he was born Dec. 19, 1907, and attended Holy Trinity and McDonough No. 12 High Schools. He was with E. C. Palmer and Company prior to his induction into the Army on April 16, 1942. He was assigned to the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Wolters, Texas, and embarked for the European Theater of Operations on Oct. 7, 1944, serving as field cook with a battalion of tank destroyers. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Rhineland, the Ardennes and Central Europe, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Bronze Campaign Stars. He was discharged at Camp Shelby on Sept. 19, 1945.

⑲ JOSEPH LEO HORIL, Yeoman 1/C, U. S. N.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand J. Horil, he was born Aug. 28, 1920, and attended Sacred Heart, Jefferson and Maybin Schools and Loyola University of the South. He served as a bookkeeper and office manager prior to entering the Navy Feb. 9, 1942. He served in Norfolk, Va., and went to Puerto Rico April 20, 1942, where he continued to serve throughout his overseas duty. He was continuing to serve with the Navy after the cessation of hostilities with Germany and Japan.

⑳ HERBERT HAROLD HORIL, Mo MM 2/C, USN (PT)

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand J. Horil, he was born May 11, 1925, and attended Jefferson School and Louisiana State University. On Dec. 15, 1942, he entered the Navy (PT), and trained at Great Lakes Naval Training Station, Ill. He served at Melville, R. I., Seattle, Wash., New Orleans and Galveston, Texas. At Melville he completed the course at Motor Torpedo Boat Squadron Training Center as first class motor machinist mate. He was continuing to serve with the Navy after the close of hostilities.

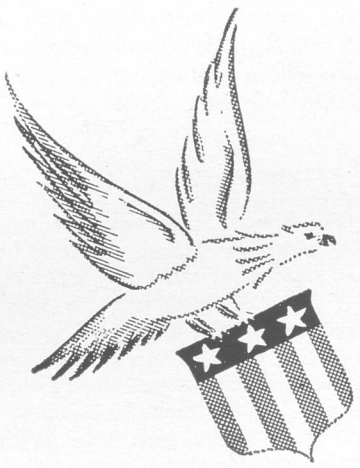
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Henry Lawrence Deuchert

First Lieutenant, Army Air Corps

Husband of Mrs. Ruth Dorinda Deuchert, 2927 Hampson Street, New Orleans, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Deuchert. He was born Jan. 26, 1923, and attended McDonough No. 23 and Samuel J. Peters High School prior to entering the Army Air Corps, Coast Artillery (anti-aircraft), Corps of Engineers. He received training at Camp Shelby, Miss., and Sheppard Field, Texas. He was drill instructor at Davis-Monthan Field, Ariz., and department head S-4 at Topeka Air Base, Kan. He attended Officer Candidate School at Camp Davis, N. C., and was platoon officer at Camp Callan, Calif. On May 26, 1943, he entered foreign service in the Aleutian Islands, and was assigned to duty at Dutch Harbor, Unalaska, as assistant engineer officer. At Atka Air Base, Atka Island, he was engineer officer. After serving through the Aleutian Campaign, A. G. and S. F., R. C., Miami Beach, was his station for a rest period, after which he was assigned to Camp Claiborne, O. R. P., and to Fort Lewis, Wash., as personnel officer. Lieutenant Deuchert was honorably discharged at the Separation Center, Fort Lewis, Wash., Dec. 8, 1945.

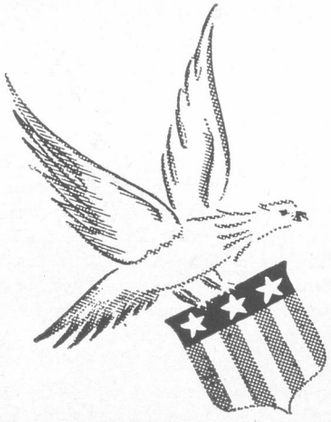
② Charles Henry Putfark, Jr.

Tec/4, United States Army

Husband of Gloria Gladys Hardin, 208 Jefferson Heights Avenue, and father of Karen Louise and Charlotte Evelyn Putfark. He was born May 14, 1921, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Henry Putfark, 719 Second Street, Orleans Parkway, New Orleans. He attended St. Francis Xavier and Jefferson schools prior to entering the service May 19, 1940, at Jackson Barracks. He was assigned to Camp Blanding as motor mechanic, Camp Bowie, Texas, Fort Lewis, Wash., Camp Breckinridge, Ky., Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla., Camp Edwards, Mass., Fort Dix, N. J., Camp Pickett, Va., Camp Rucker, Ala., and Camp Kilmer, N. J., as motor sergeant or motor mechanic or both. On Jan. 1, 1945, he went overseas with the 106th Medical Regiment, and served with them as a motor mechanic in France, Belgium, Germany and Luxembourg. He fought in the Campaign of the Rhineland and in the closing of the Ruhr Pocket across the Rhine in Central Germany. After almost five and one-half years of service to his country, Sergeant Putfark received his honorable discharge Oct. 12, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.







Ernest Joseph Boudreaux

Boatswain's Mate 1/C, U. S. N.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Luke Boudreaux, 3535 St. Ferdinand Street, New Orleans. He was born April 4, 1921, and attended Holy Name of Mary School. Entering the United States Navy on Jan. 24, 1939, at New Orleans, he went from the Naval Operating Base at Norfolk, Va., to the Pacific for sea duty and served with the great USS Yorktown and USS Gamble. He fought in the battles of Midway, the Coral Sea, and the Marshall Islands and was aboard the USS Yorktown when it was severely damaged. He volunteered to return to the ship and aid in salvaging it, for which he received a Citation from the Commander-in-Chief of the Pacific Fleet, Chester W. Nimitz, Admiral, U. S. Navy, on June 5, 1942. He also had the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three Campaign Stars. Boatswain's Mate First Class Boudreaux lost his life in a traffic accident in Sidney, Australia, June 14, 1944, while serving with the Pacific Fleet.



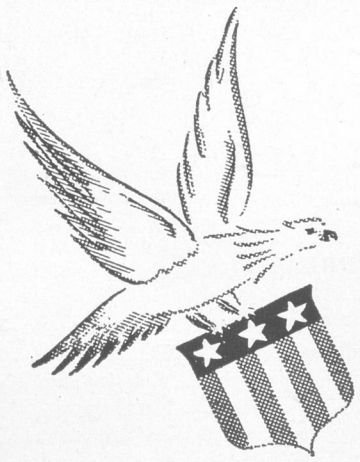
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① Paul Joseph Raynaud

Seaman 2/C, U. S. Navy

Entered the Army Transport Service Sept. 1, 1944, after receiving his honorable discharge from the Navy Aug. 10, 1944. Later he entered the Merchant Marine. Seaman Second Class Raynaud, the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Raynaud, 227 Broadway, New Orleans, was born June 26, 1926. He finished Audubon School and Fortier High School, graduating in June, 1943. Inducted into service May 17, 1944, at New Orleans, he was assigned to Camp Wallace, Texas. Receiving his discharge, he entered the Army Transport Service, then the Merchant Marine. Sailing in November, 1944, he landed in Calcutta, India, and served in Oran, North Africa, Panama, Cuba, Colombo, Ceylon and Naples, Italy. Campaigns in which he saw action included the Atlantic, Mid-East, Mediterranean and Asiatic-Pacific Theaters.

② Eugene Henry Raynaud, Jr.

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

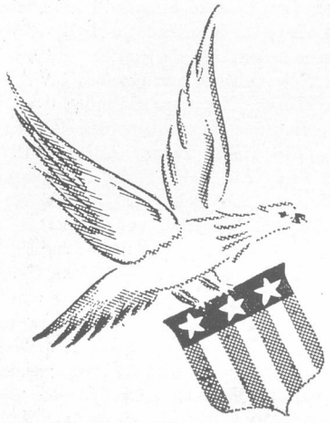
Chief of section and of detail in a Firing Battery of a Field Artillery Battalion. He was born Aug. 27, 1922, the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Raynaud, 227 Broadway, New Orleans. From Fortier High School he was inducted Jan. 13, 1941, and went to Camp Shelby, Miss. He was assigned to duty at Camp Sutton, Camp Blanding, Fort Sill, Camp Gordon and Fort Dix, and took part in the Louisiana and Tennessee maneuvers as chief of section in a firing battery. Departing for overseas duty Aug. 21, 1943, he landed in Oran, North Africa. He fought his way up from Salerno Beachhead to five miles north of Florence in Italy, and from Marseilles northeast to Strasbourg, then as far north as Wissembourg, Germany, and from the River Rhine to Augsburg, serving as chief of detail of a firing battery. He fought in the campaigns of Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North of the Arno, the Rhineland, and Central Germany. He was discharged Nov. 8, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

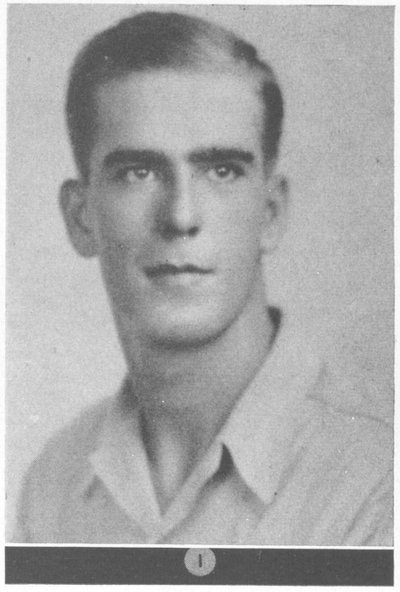
③ Maurice Herbert Raynaud

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Served on the USS New Orleans with Task Force 58, the Third Fleet, the Seventh Fleet and the Fifth Fleet. The son of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Raynaud, 227 Broadway, New Orleans, he was born Oct. 3, 1924, and attended Audubon School, Fortier High School and Delgado Trade School before entering the service Jan. 18, 1943. Leaving for overseas service with the USS New Orleans May 17, 1943, he was at Pearl Harbor, Okinawa, Manila, the Bonin Islands, Guam, Saipan, the Marshalls, the Caroline Islands, Gilbert Islands, Yap, Palau, New Guinea, Tsintao, Weihaiwei, Chefoo, Tientsin, Jensen and Yoka Suka. He fought in the campaigns of Wake Island, Makin Island, the Marshalls, Truk, New Guinea, the Marianas, the Carolines, Bonin, the first and second battles of the Philippine Sea, and Okinawa. He received the Good Conduct Medal. Seaman First Class Raynaud received his discharge Jan. 21, 1946, at New Orleans.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA







① Robert Decuir Gonsoulin

Staff Sgt., Paratroops

Husband of Mrs. Oriel A. Gonsoulin and father of Robert Decuir Gonsoulin, Jr. He is the son of Mrs. Joseph Sidney Gonsoulin, 6738 Wuerpel Street, New Orleans, and was born Aug. 6, 1919. He attended St. Stanislaus and was employed as an assistant millwright prior to his induction into the Parachute Infantry on Feb. 6, 1942. He served at Camp Shelby, Camp Wheeler, Ga., Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Bragg, N. C., with the Parachute Infantry. On Sept. 17, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater of Operations and served at St. John, Newfoundland and in England. He went into combat in the front lines in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia, and made a parachute jump in the Invasion of Normandy and Holland. He was a member of the 502nd Parachute Infantry, 101st Airborne Division. He was in action in the Campaigns of Normandy, the Rhineland, the Ardennes and Central Germany and has the Bronze Star Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon with Oak Leaf Cluster, the American Theater Ribbon, the European Theater Ribbon with four Bronze Campaign Stars, the Bronze Invasion Arrowhead and the French Fourragere presented by the French Ministry of War for service with the French Army. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby on Sept. 21, 1945.

② Frederick Leon Ruckert, Jr.

Y 2/C, U. S. C. G.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick L. Ruckert, Sr., of New Orleans, La. He was born Aug. 4, 1921, and received his education at the Lafayette School, graduating in the Class of '39 from the Fortier High School. He attended the Maybin Business College, and was employed later at the Jacobs Candy Company. Working at the Port of Embarkation as a typist-clerk, he left work to enter the Armed Forces. On his 21st birthday, Aug. 4, 1942, he joined the U. S. C. G. R. and received his training at Camp Harahan. He was placed on the Coast Guard Cutter Sunflower, and was then sent back to New Orleans in May, 1943, to depart for the South Pacific. He was on many islands in the South Pacific and took part in four invasions. On Sept. 23, 1943, he left his base at Guadalcanal for Jilla La Vella where he was killed on Sept. 25, 1943. He has four Jap planes to his credit. Frederick was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and the Certificate from the Secretary of the Navy. He is now resting in an American Island Cemetery.

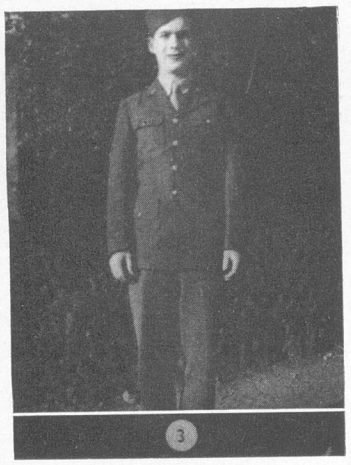


① JAMES ALBERT DENT, JR.

PFC, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mrs. S. E. Sisk, 4918 Bienville St., New Orleans. He was born Sept. 8, 1925, and attended Franklin High School prior to his induction Sept. 8, 1942, in New Orleans. Assigned to the USMC Base, San Diego, Calif., he went from there to Camp Mathews, Camp Elliot, and Camp Pendleton, Cal., for further training as a machine gunner. On Feb. 6, 1943, he sailed for the Pacific warfronts. He served in Australia with the military police and in New Zealand as a machine gunner. At Tarawa, he was a machine gunner in the front line against the enemy. After a short rest in the Hawaiian Islands, he went to Saipan as a Browning automatic rifleman. Wounded in action against the enemy he was returned to a hospital in the Hawaiian Islands. His campaigns include Tarawa, in the Gilbert Islands, and Saipan in the Marianas Group. He has a Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary courage and achievement and the Purple Heart. This gallant Marine received a medical discharge from the USMC at Mare Island, Cal., Jan. 24, 1945.





② ARTHUR JANNECK, JR.

Second Lieutenant, U. S. Army Air Force

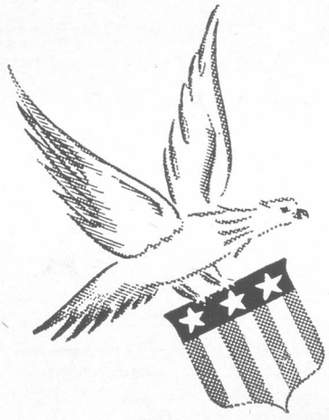
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Janneck, 252 Metairie Lawn Drive. He was born Oct. 15, 1924, attended Fortier High School, Soule Business College, and worked for Lykes Bros. Steamship Company prior to entering the service. He was inducted May 21, 1943, at New Orleans, and received his Basic Training at Amarillo, Texas, Navigator's Preflight at Ellington Army Air Field, Houston, Texas, attended Gunnery School at Laredo Army Air Field, Texas, Advanced Navigation School at Hondo Army Air Field, Texas, and overseas training at Alexandria Army Air Field, La. On Feb. 10, 1945, he embarked for Liverpool, England, and served in the 94th Bomb Group, Sqdn. 410, near Bury St. Edmunds, England, as Navigator of a B-17 Flying Fortress. Lieut. Janneck participated in the air combat over Germany, flying nine missions. On the ninth mission, his plane was badly damaged and he was forced down in Russia. It took him six weeks to make his way back to his base in England. Three weeks of that time he was classified as Missing in Action. He received an honorable discharge at San Antonio, Texas, on Nov. 6, 1945.

③ BEECHMAN H. ARNOLD

Staff Sergeant, Air Forces

Husband of Molly Arnold, 1367 Rollins Drive, Los Angeles, Cal., and father of Keith F. Arnold and Alieta Maureen Arnold. He was born June 7, 1919, and is the son of Mrs. Alice Arnold, 1596 Conti St., New Orleans. Entering the Army Air Forces on Sept. 29, 1939, at Barksdale Field, he served at Barksdale with the weather observer unit and went to Scott Field, Ill., Army Air Forces Technical Training School. He went to MacDill Field, Fla., as AAF Supply Clerk and Payroll Clerk and to Paige Field, Fort Myers, Fla., as AAF Supply Technician. Sergeant Arnold embarked for Europe Sept. 26, 1942, and served in England at Grafton Underwood and Kettering in AAF Supply and at Shipdham, AAF 114, in the same capacity throughout the war in Europe. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Soldier's Good Conduct Medal, the American Theatre of Operations Ribbon, and the American Defense Service Ribbon. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on August 30, 1945.



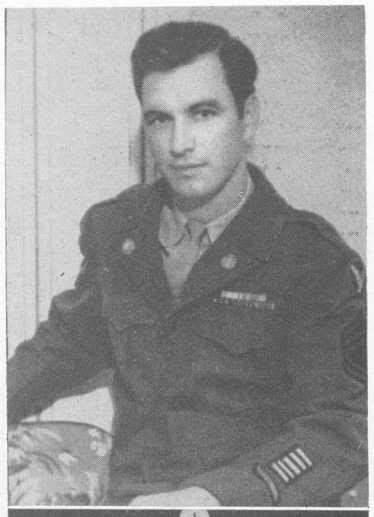


Daniel Allen McGovern III

Ensign S (L), U. S. Navy

Husband of Shirley Catherine McGovern, 1223 St. Roch, New Orleans, and father of Daniel Allen, Jr., and Patricia Ann McGovern. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Allen McGovern, Jr., 1434 St. Roch, and attended St. Aloysius College and Loyola University. Entering the United States Naval Reserve April 28, 1944, he transferred from U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, to a supply unit at San Bruno, Calif., and to Treasure Island Nov. 9, 1944, as ensign D (L), USNR. He was assigned to Hollywood, Fla., and Gulfport, Miss., graduating as recognition officer. With Commander Destroyers, Pacific, he embarked for Pearl Harbor April 21, 1945. He served with the USS Day DE 225, the USS M. B. Stewart, the USS LaVaca APA 180, and HMAS Bathurst Corvette J-158. He was in combat in the Invasion of Borneo in June, 1945, at Brunei Bay, and on convoy duty with the USS Day June-September, 1945, in the Philippines. He served in Hollandia, N. G., Biak, Morotai, Leyte, P. I., Ulithi, Manila, Singapore and the China Sea. On his return to the States he served in Washington and at New Orleans as assistant to the Legal Officer, Headquarters Eighth Naval District. He has the Asiatic-Pacific (one star), American Theater, Philippine Liberation and Victory Ribbons.

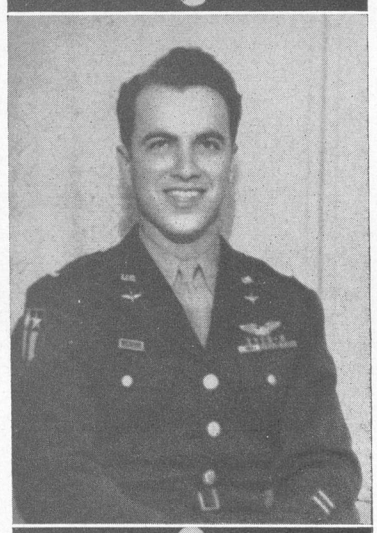
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① PETER RAYMOND YOUNGBLOOD, JR.

Technical Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

Husband of Theodosia Brossette Youngblood, 831 Louisa Street, New Orleans, La. He was born Oct. 12, 1921, and attended Holy Cross College of New Orleans. He entered the service Feb. 17, 1941, and received his training at New Orleans Army Air Base, Daniel Field, Ga., Smith-Reynolds Field, N. C., and Fort Dix, N. J. On Sept. 27, 1942, he embarked for the European Theater where he served in England, Africa, Italy, France, Germany, Greece, Sicily and Yugoslavia. Sergeant Youngblood participated in the Invasion of Africa, and the campaigns of Rome-Arno, Naples-Foggia, Po Valley, Southern France and the Balkans. He has the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal with eight Battle Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation, the American Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged June 24, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss. He is the son of Capt. Peter R. and Irene R. Youngblood, New Orleans, La.



② ROBERT EMMETT YOUNGBLOOD

First Lieutenant, U. S. Army Air Force

Husband of Betty Mae Flake Youngblood and father of Kathleen Noel, 831 Louisa Street, New Orleans, La. He was born Nov. 16, 1923, and attended Holy Cross College of New Orleans and Louisiana State University. Inducted March 2, 1942, he received his training at Maxwell Field, Ala., Bainbridge Army Air Base, Ga., Marianna Army Air Base, Fla., and Fighter Transition School, Greenwood, Miss. On Jan. 16, 1944, he embarked for the China, Burma, India area where he served with the 1300th AAFBU, ATC. Lieutenant Youngblood participated in the Battle of Imphal Plains, and the Battle of China, and he has the Distinguished Flying Cross with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with two Battle Stars, and the Presidential Unit Citation. He was honorably discharged Dec. 16, 1945, and re-entered the service May 20, 1946. He is the son of Capt. Peter R. and Irene R. Youngblood, New Orleans, La.





③ THOMAS ALOYSIUS YOUNGBLOOD

Lieutenant (jg), U. S. Navy

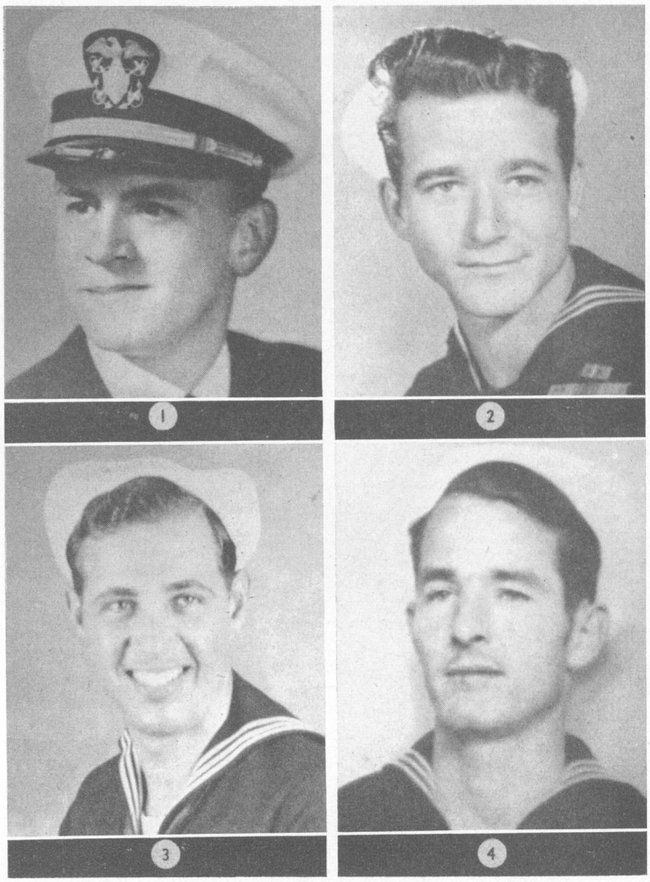
Husband of Jacquelyn Roux Youngblood, 831 Louisa Street, New Orleans, La. He was born Oct. 11, 1922, and attended Holy Cross College of New Orleans. He entered the service Nov. 16, 1942, and received his training at Del Monte Pre-Flight School, Calif., Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, Texas, Jacksonville Naval Air Station, Fla., and the Naval Air Station, Hutchinson, Kan. On November 21, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific Theater where he served at John Rogers Field, Hawaii, and at the Naval Air Station, Johnston Island. Lieutenant Youngblood has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He is still on active duty in the service. He is the son of Capt. Peter R. and Irene R. Youngblood, 831 Louisa Street, New Orleans, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① John A. Cochrane

Ensign, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Cochrane, 330 Walnut St., New Orleans, La. He was born Oct. 31, 1924, and attended Tulane University. He was inducted at New Orleans on June 28, 1943, and was assigned to the U. S. Navy V-12 Unit, Tulane University; to the U. S. N. R. Midshipmen's School, New York, N. Y.; and then to Ordnance and Gunnery School, Navy Yard, Washington, D. C. On June 15, 1945, Ensign Cochrane embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served aboard the USS San Diego CL 53 and the USS Corregidor CVE 58, with the Commander Air Force, Pacific Fleet. He participated in the Third Fleet strikes against the Japanese Homeland, and the initial occupation at Yokasuka, Japan. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with one battle star, the American Theater of Operations Medal, and the Victory Medal. He is still in the service.



1 2 3 4

② George Andrew Gitz

Electrician's Mate First Class, U. S. Navy

Husband of Lourena Devenny Gitz, 7825 Dominican St., New Orleans, La. He was born Sept. 8, 1923, and attended S. J. Peters High School. He was inducted at New Orleans, Dec. 2, 1940, and received his training at the USNTS, San Diego, Calif.; NAS, Corpus Christi, Texas; University Houston Electrical School, Houston, Texas; and ATB, Little Creek, Va. On Dec. 30, 1943, he embarked for overseas, and he served aboard the USS Clay in the Pacific Theater for 18 months. He participated in the invasions of Saipan, Leyte, Lingayan Gulf, and Okinawa. Electrician's Mate Gitz has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with two battle stars, the Philippine Liberation Medal with two battle stars, and the American Defense Service Medal. He was honorably discharged at New Orleans, Sept. 11, 1945. He is the son of Mrs. Esther Gitz, 7817 Pearl St., New Orleans, La.

③ Harold P. O'Neil

BM 2/C, USCGR

Mr. and Mrs. William P. O'Neil, 6320 Burgundy St., New Orleans. He was born March 18, 1925, and attended St. Maurice Parochial School, Holy Cross and Francis T. Nicholls High Schools. Enlisting in the United States Coast Guard Reserve on Sept. 22, 1942, at New Orleans, he served on fire boat duty at Texas City, Texas, and at the Coast Guard Operating Base (Depot) in New Orleans. He went to the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations on July 25, 1943, aboard USS LST 26 as a member of the deck crew and pointer on a 20-millimeter gun, fighting in the initial invasions of Cape Gloucester, New Britain, Aitape, Hollandia, and Tana Mara Bay, Dutch New Guinea, Wake Island, Sarmi, and Sawar, Dutch New Guinea, and the operations on Biak, Noemfoor, Cape Sansapor, Morotai, N. E. I., and the first assault landing on Leyte in the Philippines Oct. 20, 1944. He has the Good Conduct Ribbon and commendations from Commander-in-Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, and Commander Seventh Fleet. He was discharged May 15, 1946.

④ Henry Paul Guillory

Carpenter's Mate First Class, U. S. Navy

Son of Edward and Laura Guillory, 1614 Shirland Ave., Alexandria, La. He was born Sept. 8, 1920, attended Bolton High School, and was a molder's helper prior to entering the service. He was inducted at New Orleans on Dec. 26, 1941, received his training at Norfolk, Va., and San Pedro, Calif., and assigned first to the USS Pastores, and then to the USS Corkwood AN 44. On Aug. 27, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, and served at Bermuda Island, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Virgin Island, St. Lucia, Curacao, Panama, Pearl Harbor, Midway, Gilbert, Ellice, Marshall, Marianas, Philippines and Ryukyu Islands. He participated in the campaign at the Ryukyu Islands. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal, and the American Theater of Operations Medal. Carpenter's Mate Guillory was honorably discharged at New Orleans, on Nov. 16, 1945.



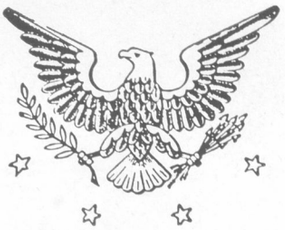


Erlewin Raymond Gilbert

Master Sergeant, Air Forces

Husband of Adelaide M. Gilbert, 8329 Spruce Street, New Orleans, and father of Melanie Ann Gilbert. He was born Feb. 7, 1924, and is the son of David Gabriel Gilbert. A graduate of Walter C. Flower and Alcee Fortier High Schools, he was an automotive mechanic prior to entering the Army Air Forces Nov. 16, 1942, at New Orleans. He served at Keesler Field, Miss., Paterson, N. J. (Wright Engine School), Salt Lake City Army Air Base, Utah, Biggs Field, Texas, and McCook Field, Neb. (airplane crew chief). He embarked for Europe May 7, 1944, and served in England and Germany as airplane crew chief in the Air Offensive over Europe and the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He has the American Theater Medal, European Theater Ribbon with six Bronze Campaign Stars and World War II Victory Medal, and was honorably discharged Dec. 2, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Alvin Joseph Toups

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Octave Toups, 2221 Constance St., New Orleans, La., he was born Jan. 11, 1919, attended New Orleans schools, and was employed by the Imperial Couch Co., as a furniture finisher prior to entering the service. He was inducted into the Field Artillery on Oct. 7, 1940, and was assigned to Camp Shelby, Miss., then to Camp Sutton, N. C., as Mess Sergeant; transferred to Camp Blanding, Fla., then Fort Sill, Okla., as Supply Sgt.; then to Fort Dix, N. J., as Mess Sergeant. On Aug. 21, 1943, he embarked for Oran, North Africa, and he served in Africa, Italy, France, Germany, and Belgium, as Mess and Supply Sergeant. Sergeant Toups participated in the campaigns of Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Rhineland, and Central Europe WDGO 33 45. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Sept. 26, 1945.



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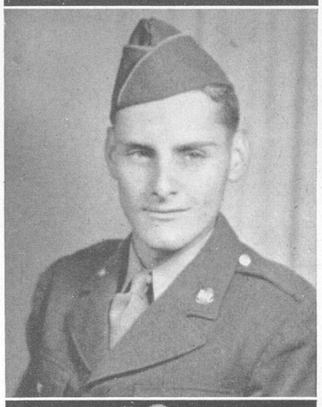


2

② Zepherin Emile Toups

Private First Class, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Octave Toups, 2221 Constance St., New Orleans, La. He was born Jan. 6, 1923, and attended New Orleans schools. He was inducted Jan. 29, 1942, at Camp Shelby, Miss., and received his training at Camp Gordon, Ga., at Fort Knox, Ky., and at the Arizona Training Center. On April 10, 1943, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served in South Wales, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Germany, assigned to the 526th Armored Infantry Battalion as a Motor Gunner. Private Toups participated in the campaigns of Northern France, Rhineland, Central Europe, and Ardennes. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Nov. 22, 1945.



3



4

③ Lloyd B. DeLuca

Private First Class, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Vincent DeLuca, Jr., 828 Solomon Place, New Orleans, La., he was born Jan. 21, 1924, and attended Warren Easton High School, and Tulane University, College of Engineering. He was inducted June 3, 1943, and received his training at Camp Fannin, Texas, the Texas Technological College, and at Camp Barkeley, Texas, where he was assigned to the Twelfth Armored Division as a Gunner and Bow Gunner in Light Tanks. On September 20, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served in England, France and Germany, participating in the Campaigns of Rhineland, Alsace-Lorraine, Southern Germany, and Central Europe. Private First Class DeLuca has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the European Theater of Operations Medal with two battle stars, the Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on April 5, 1946.

④ Louis Robillia, Jr.

Captain, U. S. Army

Husband of Rita Aurelia Robillia, 1547 Constance St., New Orleans, La. He was born March 20, 1914, attended S. J. Peters High School, and was a hotel steward prior to entering the service. Inducted Aug. 21, 1941, he trained at Camp Shelby, Miss.; was Supply Sergeant and attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Knox, Ky.; served as Tank Platoon Leader at Camp Polk, La., and as Tank Platoon Leader and Company Commander at Camp Cooke, Calif. On Sept. 27, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and served as Company Commander in England, France, Belgium, Germany and Austria. Captain Robillia participated in the campaigns of Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the American Defense Service Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, the European Theatre of Operations Medal with three battle stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He is still in the service. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Robillia, Sr., 1634 Moss St., New Orleans, La.

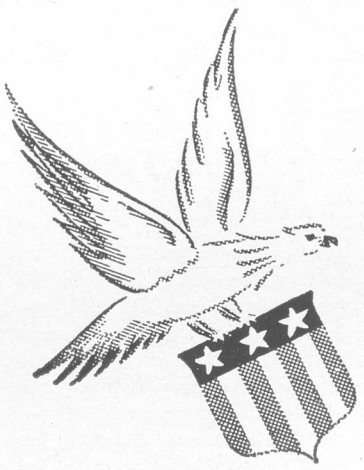
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



①



②



① Clinton Earl Williams

Coxswain (Diver 2/C), U. S. N.

Husband of Eva Lee Williams, Rockaway Beach, Calif., and son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Robert Williams, 5815 Catina Street, New Orleans. He was born March 25, 1924, and attended Lakeview, St. Dominic, and Warren Easton Schools prior to his induction Jan. 17, 1943. After three months at North Island he went to San Diego Naval Training Station for five months, then was assigned to the SS Nassau and the SS Altamaha for training and to Fleet Air Wing 8, Headquarters Squadron, FPO. He went to the South Pacific Dec. 22, 1943, and served there for the remainder of World War II and after, stationed with the Third Fleet. He has the American Theater Ribbon, European-African-Eastern Theater Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with five Bronze Stars for major naval engagements in which he fought, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He received a Letter of Commendation and Presidential Unit Citation for service and valor beyond the call of duty in the fighting in the Islands of the South Pacific.

② Edward Robert Williams, Jr.

A.M.M. 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Robert Williams, 5815 Catina Street, New Orleans. He was born Feb. 22, 1922, and attended Delgado Trade School. He was in the installation department, Higgins Industries, prior to induction July 14, 1942. He trained at San Diego, Calif., Navy Pier in Chicago, Hollywood and Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Alameda, Crow's Landing and Holtville, Calif., and Banana River, Fla., before leaving for Saipan April 24, 1944. He served in the Hawaiian Islands, the Marianas, the Marshalls, the Admiralties and the Philippines, and fought in the campaigns of Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Morotai, Leyte and the Second Battle of the Philippines, in which his carrier, the USS St. Lo, formerly the Midway, was sunk. He won the Air Medal as aerial gunner on a torpedo bomber attached to Composite Squadron 65 aboard the St. Lo with which he served in the Seventh Fleet. Without fighter escort and in the face of heavy, accurate anti-aircraft fire of all calibers, he successfully performed a difficult operation in bombing attacks on a Japanese task force, the citation states. He also won a Presidential Unit Citation, the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with five Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Bar, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Jan. 8, 1946, at New Orleans.

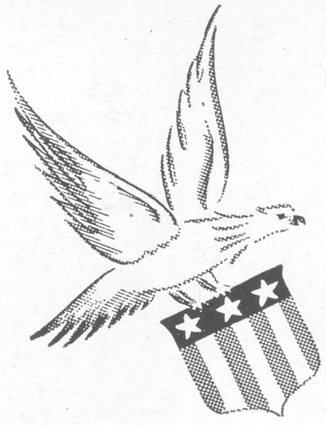
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Joseph Saltalamacchia

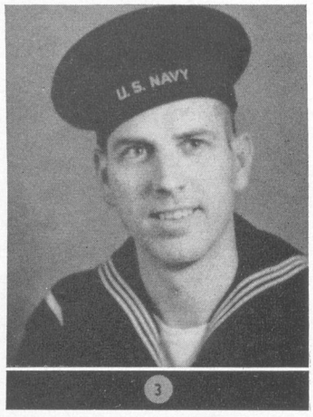
Tec/5, U. S. Army



Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Saltalamacchia, East End, Jefferson Parish. He was born Aug. 11, 1918, and attended Bonnabel School and Warren Easton Night School. Inducted Aug. 21, 1941, at Camp Livingston, he was sent to Camp Shelby and then to Camp Croft, Spartanburg, S. C., and Fort Jackson, S. C. Assigned to duty in Iceland, he remained there for 14 months and then went to England, Ireland, and France, spending three years and three months in the European Theater as an automotive mechanic. He was awarded two battle stars for combat in Northern France and the Rhineland. He also has the American Defense Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. He also served for twenty months as an auto mechanic and for twenty-two months operating a truck. One of his duties was to examine military vehicles for mechanical defects. He was discharged with a certificate of honorable service Nov. 13, 1945, at Camp Shelby.







② Emmett F. Zeller

Technical Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Corps

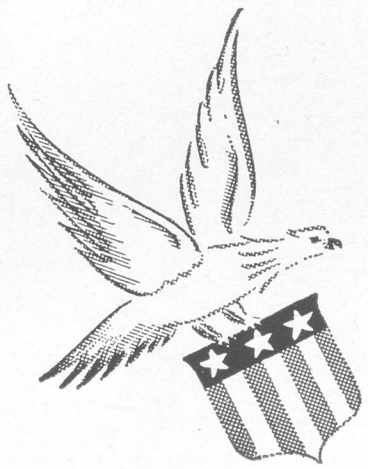
Son of Marie Dillman Zeller, 543 Jackson Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. He was born July 30, 1917, and attended Redemptorist School. He was inducted into the Air Force at New Orleans on Oct. 1, 1941, and attended Gunnery School at Las Vegas, Nev., finishing his training April 6, 1942. He then embarked for the European Theater, and served as Sub-Gunnery Officer-Navigator with the 68th Reconnaissance Tactical Force. He participated in special night missions over France and Germany, and was later killed in action in Algiers, North Africa, on April 27, 1944. He was awarded the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the French Croix de Guerre. He is buried at Masion Carre, a short distance from Algiers.

③ Milton Joseph Zeller

U. S. Navy

Son of Marie Dillman Zeller, 543 Jackson Ave., New Orleans, La. He was born June 15, 1907, graduated from Redemptorist High School, and was then employed for the Federal Bank for nine years prior to entering the service. He was inducted at New Orleans, and received his training at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif. It is not known to what ship he was assigned, however, after finishing his training, he embarked for the Pacific Theater of Operations, where he served until he was killed in action. He is the husband of Edna Ede Zeller, and the father of Eugene, Leoline, and Milton Joseph, Jr., of New Orleans, La.



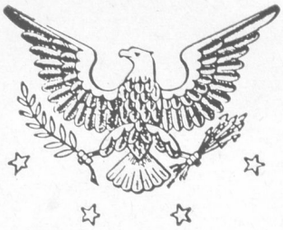


JOSEPH L. VIGNES

Captain, Infantry, AUS

Son of Mrs. Andree Romain Vignes, 4015 Prytania Street, New Orleans. He was born July 7, 1916, and attended Loyola University, New Orleans, and Louisiana State University. Entering the Army Aug. 1, 1940, at Fort Benning, Ga., where he served with the 29th and 24th Infantry Divisions, he went to Camp Wheeler, Ga., with the 11th Training Battalion and served with the 131st Infantry at Camp Forrest, Tenn., and Fort Brady, Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., and the 320th Infantry at Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., Camp Rucker, Ala., and Camp Butner, N. C. On April 24, 1944, he embarked for Europe to serve with Headquarters First Battalion, 320th Infantry, 35th Division, in England, France, Luxembourg and Germany. He fought in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes and Central Europe, and has the Bronze Star, the Presidential Unit Citation Ribbon and the Purple Heart received Jan. 1, 1945, in the vicinity of Boulaide, Luxembourg.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





① Carlos C. Langston, Sr.

Technical Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Katherine Neatherland Langston and father of Carlos C. Langston, Jr., Clinton, Miss. He was born Dec. 24, 1922, attended Clinton Consolidated Schools, Clinton, Miss., L. S. U., and was surveyor for Michael Baker, Jr., San Angelo, Texas, prior to entering the service. He was inducted at New Orleans, Aug. 5, 1943, and received his training at Camp Beauregard, La., March Field, Calif., and Camp Patrick Henry, Va. On Dec. 14, 1943, he embarked for the China, Burma, India Theater of Operations, assigned to the construction of a B-29 base and Air Field for A.T.C. in India, and worked on construction and maintenance of Stilwell Road and bridges, air strips, and buildings along the road in Burma. Sgt. Langston participated in the campaigns in Central Burma and India Burma. He has the E.A.M.E.T.O. Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Meritorious Achievement Award, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., Jan. 8, 1946. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Volney B. Langston, New Orleans, La.

② Carney L. Johnson, Jr.

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

Husband of Amy Monju Johnson, and father of Beth Michael and Carney L. Johnson III. He was born Sept. 26, 1908, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carney L. Johnson of New Orleans, and attended McDonough No. 3 and Warren Easton Boys' High School. He was a warehouse manager and salesman prior to entering the U. S. Army in the Infantry March 8, 1944, at Camp Beauregard. From the Infantry Replacement Training Center at Camp Fannin, Texas, he went to Fort George G. Meade, Md., and Camp Kilmer, N. J., port of embarkation. On Aug. 17, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater of Operations and served in England, Scotland, France, Belgium, and Germany as squad leader in a rifle company, Company G of the 60th Infantry Regiment, 9th Division. He also served with Battery B, 419th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, 10th Armored Division. He was in combat in the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe, and has the Bronze Star Medal, the Distinguished Unit Citation Badge with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Belgian Fourragere, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Purple Heart for wounds received in action near Linz, Germany, on March 12, 1945. He also has the E.T.O. Ribbon with four bronze Campaign Stars and the Army of Occupation Ribbon.

③ Louis Gerard Gruntz

Corporal, U. S. Army

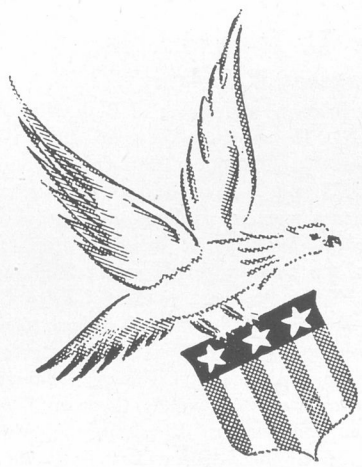
Husband of Audrey Casteix Gruntz, Jefferson Parish. He was born May 10, 1919, atended Metairie High School, and was a machine operator prior to entering the service. He was inducted at New Orleans on Nov. 18, 1942, attended Armored Force School at Fort Knox, Ky., and served as Tank Driver and Gunner at Fort Benning, Ga., Camp Gordon, Ga., and Fort Jackson, S. C. On Feb. 28, 1944, he embarked for England, and he served with the Third Army, 712th Tank Battalion, as a gunner, in England, Germany, France, Luxembourg, and Czechslovakia. Cpl. Gruntz participated in the campaigns at Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the Bronze Star Medal, the E. T. O. Medal, the Meritorious Unit Award, the A. T. O. Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and he was awarded the Purple Heart in France on Aug. 7, 1944. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Nov. 1, 1945. He is the son of Mary Ellen Gruntz, and the late Louis Henry Gruntz, Metairie, La.

④ Peter Joseph Bertucci, Jr.

Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army Air Force

Husband of Dorothy Klar Bertucci, New Orleans, La. He was born July 25, 1914, attended S. J. Peters High School, and was a Transportation Dispatcher prior to entering the service. He was inducted Sept. 12, 1942, at New Orleans, and received his training at Hondo, Texas; Hamilton, Texas; Kelly Field, Texas; Sioux Falls, S. D.; and Sedalia, Mo. On March 10, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and he served in England, France, Italy, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Austria, and Czechoslovakia as radio operator and mechanic on a C-47 Troop Carrier Plane. Sgt. Bertucci participated in the Normandy, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Central Europe, Rhineland, and Northern France campaigns. He has the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters, the Distinguished Unit Citation, the E. A. M. E. T. O. Medal with six battle stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the A. A. F. Crew Member Wings. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Oct. 13, 1945. He is the son of Peter Joseph, Sr., and Edna Hartman Bertucci, New Orleans, La.





Frederick Jacob Ruppert

PFC, Infantry, AUS

Son of Catherine Gerchow and August Ruppert, 4223 Annunciation Street, New Orleans. He was born May 23, 1911, and attended Jefferson, St. Michael, St. Francis and Cohn High Schools. On June 16, 1942, he entered the Army at Camp Livingston and served at Camp Rucker, Ala., Camp Horn, Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., and Camp Beale, Calif., with the Infantry as a gunner. On July 3, 1944, he went to Hawaii and served on Anguar, Palau, New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, Cebu City, Ulithi Atoll, and Leyte in the Philippines as ammunition carrier, on guard duty and loading heavy cargo. He served with the 81st Infantry, 492nd Port Battalion, and fought at Anguar and Peleliu, Palau Islands. He has the Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars, and was honorably discharged Jan. 5, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Texas.

① Thomas H. Wightman, Jr.

Coxswain, U. S. Navy

Husband of Cleo Lewis, and father of Bonnie Jean Wightman, 306 Ruth St., New Orleans, La. He was born in New Orleans, La., and attended Fortier High School. Inducted Oct. 26, 1943, he received his training at the Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif.; Balboa Park Amphibious Base, San Diego, Calif.; Terminal Island Receiving Station, Calif.; and Frontier Base, San Pedro, Calif. On June 1, 1944, he embarked for the Pacific Theater, serving for twelve months on the USS Cape Johnson, and five months on the USS Hydrus. Coxswain Wightman participated in the invasions of Saipan, Tinian, Leyte, Luzon, Iwo Jima, and the Northern Solomons campaign. He was honorably discharged at the Naval Air Station, New Orleans, on Jan. 25, 1946. He is the son of Louise Klar Wightman, 4308 Constance St., New Orleans.

② Nolan William DeLatte

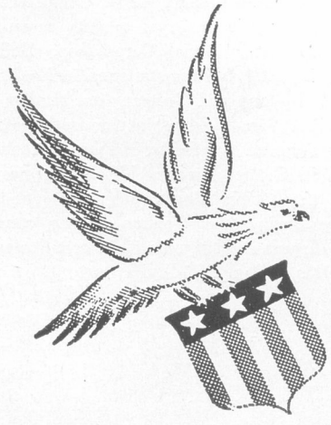
U. S. Navy

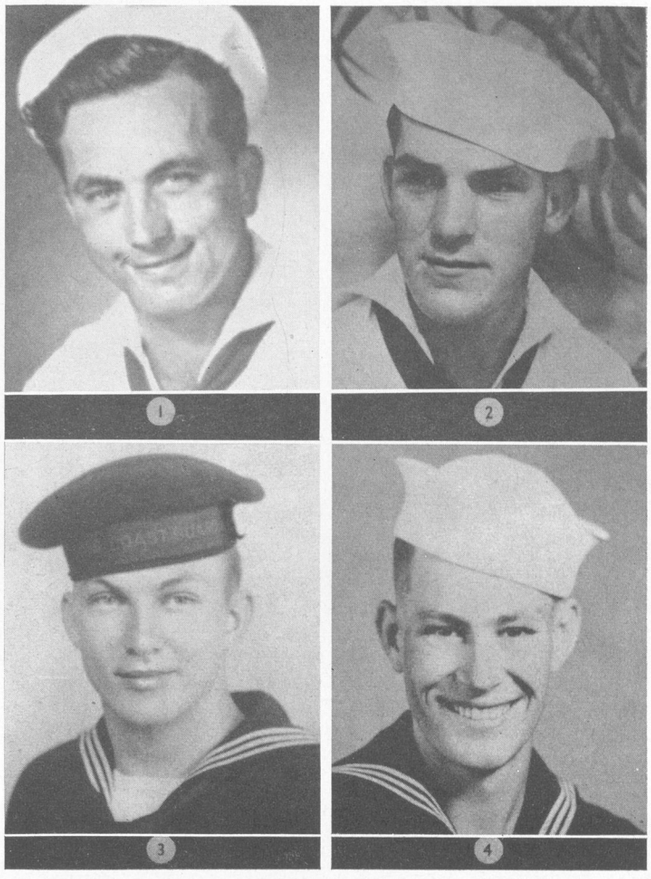
No information available.

③ Edwin Merrill Schaefer

U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Schevermann, 726 Eighth St., New Orleans, La. He was born Nov. 17, 1919, attended Fortier High School, Tulane University, Maybin Commercial School, and was employed at the Southern Cotton Oil Company of New Orleans prior to entering the service. He was inducted at Shreveport on September 26, 1941, and received his training at the Algiers Training Station, Capt. of Port, New York City; at Harbor Patrol Fleet, New York City; and Electrician's School, Boston, Mass.; and at Air, Sea, Reserve, Fort Pierce, Fla. On April 17, 1945, he embarked for Panama aboard the USCGC Sweet Gum. He is still in the service, his enlistment ending Sept. 26, 1946.





④ Ernest Joseph Hebert

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Jeannette Cecelia Riehm Hebert, 810 Washington Ave., New Orleans, and son of Mr. and Mrs. August Joseph Hebert, New Orleans. He was born Dec. 7, 1924, and attended Redemptorist School. He was employed by a manufacturing company prior to his induction in the U. S. Navy Oct. 13, 1942. He was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Calif., for training. On Feb. 26, 1942, he began his sea duty in the Pacific Theater. Seaman First Class Hebert fought in eleven major engagements in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater and one in the Philippines. He fought at the Aleutians, Wake, the Gilbert Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Caroline Islands, Hollandia in New Guinea, the Marianas Islands, the Philippines, Iwo Jima, and in naval raids on Okinawa and Tokyo. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbons with eleven bronze battle stars, the American Area Service Ribbon, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one bronze battle star. This valiant seaman was discharged at New Orleans Nov. 22, 1945, after more than three years and one month of unselfish fighting duty on the battlefronts of the Pacific.

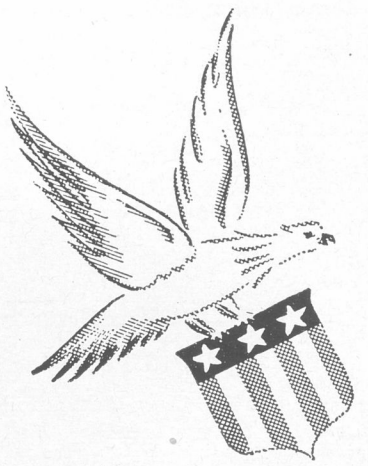
The FIGHTING MEN *of* LOUISIANA



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① Arthur J. Williams

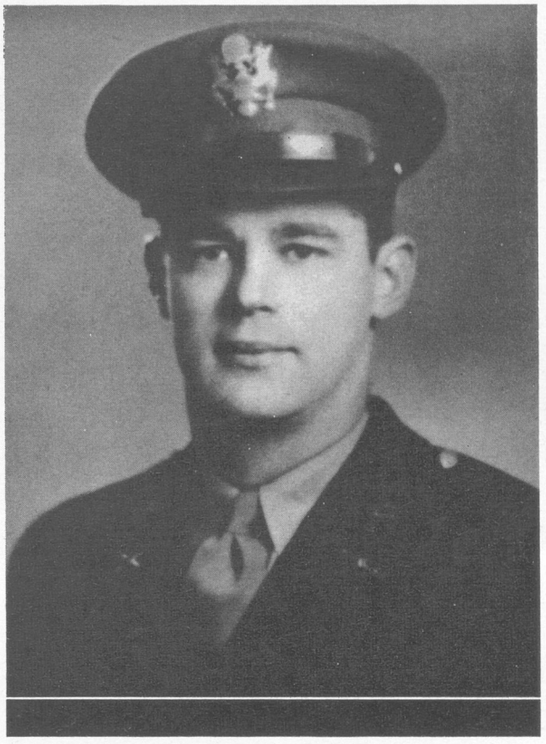
Tec/4, U. S. Army

Husband of Maud M. Williams, 447 Wyandotte Street, Shreveport, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Charles Williams. He was born Sept. 29, 1918, and was an optician prior to his induction Dec. 16, 1942, in New Orleans. Assigned to Anti-Aircraft Artillery Ordnance, he was stationed at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and Camp Edwards, Mass., and took part in the Tennessee Maneuvers at Camp Forrest. On Feb. 11, 1944, he embarked for England. He took part in five major campaigns, the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe, and served in Normandy, Northern France, Belgium, Germany and the Philippines. He has the American Theater Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal with five Bronze Stars, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal. Sergeant Williams received his honorable discharge Dec. 25, 1945, at Camp Fannin, Texas, after three years of devoted service in two hemispheres.

② Roy W. Riser

Tec/5, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Riser, 3139 St. Peter Street, New Orleans. He was born Nov. 6, 1921, and attended schools in Harahan and Kenner before being inducted into the U. S. Army. Assigned to the Signal Corps, he trained at Camp Beauregard, Camp Kohler, Calif., Camp San Luis Obispo, Calif., Camp Rucker, Ala., and Camp Butner, N. C. He was assigned to duty as an installer and repairman and driver of a Signal Corps jeep. Embarking for overseas service May 11, 1944, he was stationed in England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Holland and Germany as installer, repairman and jeep driver with the Signal Corps in the front battle lines. He fought in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland and Central Europe. He also received the Good Conduct Medal and the Purple Heart. He was wounded Jan. 2, 1945, in Luxembourg during the German winter counteroffensive in the Ardennes. He was discharged with a certificate of honorable service Sept. 16, 1945, at Camp Shelby.





James J. Young, Jr.

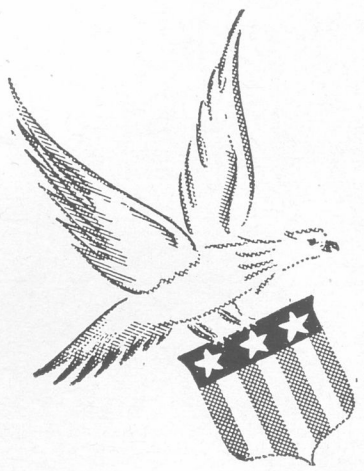
Captain, Coast Artillery

Husband of Josephine Ramoneda Young, 1206 Louisiana Avenue, New Orleans, and father of a young son, James J. Young III, was born on April 14, 1915. He attended Jesuit High School and Loyola University and in civilian life had been a teacher and sales manager. Captain Young entered service Jan. 14, 1942, at Camp Livingston and was assigned duties at Camp Beauregard, officer candidate school at Camp Davis, N. C., and the post of battalion supply officer at Camp Edward, Mass., and Camp Pickett, Va. Assigned to overseas duty on April 11, 1944, he engaged in combat operations against Guam, Leyte and the Ryukyus Islands. Engagements in which he took a part were those of the Mandated Islands of Guam, the Southern Philippines (Leyte), and Kerama Rettos and Ie Shima in the Ryukyus group. He wears the American Theater Ribbon, Victory Ribbon, Bronze Star Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three Battle Stars, and Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one Bronze Battle Star. He was discharged Feb. 2, 1946, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA







① JOHN P. ST. RAYMOND

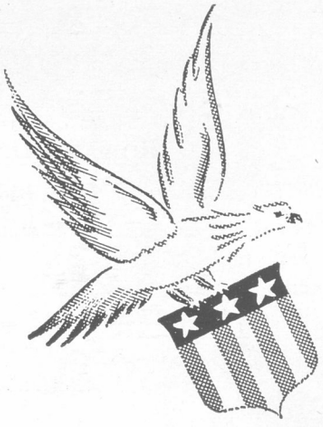
Private First Class, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert St. Raymond, 3539 Napoleon Avenue, New Orleans. He was born Oct. 5, 1924. He graduated from St. Aloysius College and while attending the Tulane University School of Engineering he enlisted in the U. S. Army in June, 1943. As a member of the Tenth Armored Division he served in the European Theater and was wounded in the Battle of the Bulge in the Ardennes Forest Dec. 24, 1944, while serving with the 61st Armored Infantry Battalion, Anti-tank Platoon, as part of the first Task Force of General Patton's Third Army to cross the German border. The Tenth Armored Division crushed all resistance in Trierre, first major German city to fall, and fought its way on to Garmisch Partenkirchen where it celebrated its third anniversary in a parade for General Patton. Assigned to the 45th Division for redeployment to the Pacific area, Private St. Raymond was returned to the States. He received the Purple Heart for the Ardennes Forest, the Good Conduct Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, and has the European Theater Ribbon with Battle Stars for three major campaigns. He was honorably discharged in November, 1945.

② ALBERT H. ST. RAYMOND, JR.

First Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert St. Raymond, 3539 Napoleon Avenue, New Orleans. He was born May 25, 1922, and graduated from St. Aloysius College. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from Loyola University of the South and graduated from the Louisiana State University School of Medicine in September, 1944. Lieutenant St. Raymond served his internship in a New York City Hospital after which he entered the United States Army Medical Corps. After receiving training at Carlisle Barracks and Buckley Field, Lieutenant St. Raymond was assigned to the European Theater of Operations, where he continued to serve as a member of the Army of Occupation, United States Army Medical Corps, following the cessation of hostilities.





J. George Jones, Jr.

Lieutenant (jg), U. S. Navy

Chief engineer of the LST which brought in units of the 32nd Division on D-Day in Normandy, is husband of Margaret Louise Jones, 90 North Rio Vista Avenue, New Orleans, and father of Carroll Ann Jones. He was born Nov. 13, 1916, and attended Robert E. Lee Academy, Fortier High School, Soule College and Tulane University. Prior to the war he was a member of an engineering firm and at the time of induction was with a naval construction firm. Inducted in August, 1942, he was officer in charge of YR-39, U. S. Naval Section Base, Algiers. As chief engineer of LST 291 after extensive training and maneuvers, he was a part of operations in Ireland, Wales, England and participated in the Invasion of Normandy and the bombardment of Cherbourg, continuing to operate along the coasts of France, England and Norway until V-E Day. Reporting to the U. S. Naval Amphibious Base at Norfolk, he was discharged Dec. 26, 1945, at the naval separation center, New Orleans, with ribbons for both the American and European Theaters and one Bronze Star.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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② Maurice Herbert Beaujeaux

Ship's Cook 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Lucille Elizabeth Beaujeaux of Mandeville, La., he was born July 16, 1922. He is the father of Gerald Maurice and Patricia Agnes Beaujeaux. Entering the service April 30, 1942, Beaujeaux was assigned to the USS San Francisco and participated in the fighting at Savo Bay, Marshall and Gilbert Islands, Aleutian Islands, Guadalcanal, Kiska, Attu, Wake, Truk, Guam, Stapen, Luzon, Mindoro, Tokyo, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with 15 bronze stars, Presidential Unit Citation with one bronze star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one bronze star, Good Conduct Ribbon and American Theater Ribbon. After more than three years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged Nov. 22, 1945.

③ Howard D. Hannon

U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Hannon of New Orleans, La. He was born Feb. 27, 1917, and attended the Fortier High School. Prior to entering the armed forces he was employed at the Hibernia National Bank. Howard entered the U. S. Army June 1, 1941.

(N. M. I. A.)

① Charles Cedric Beaujeaux

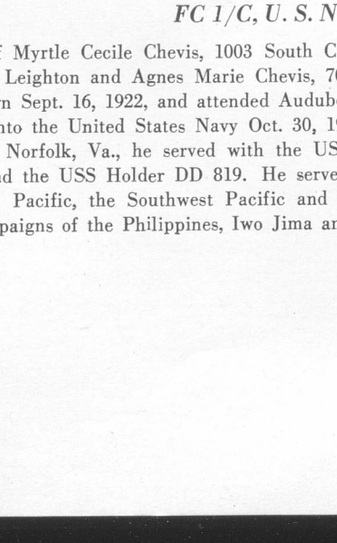
Staff Sergeant, U. S. Army

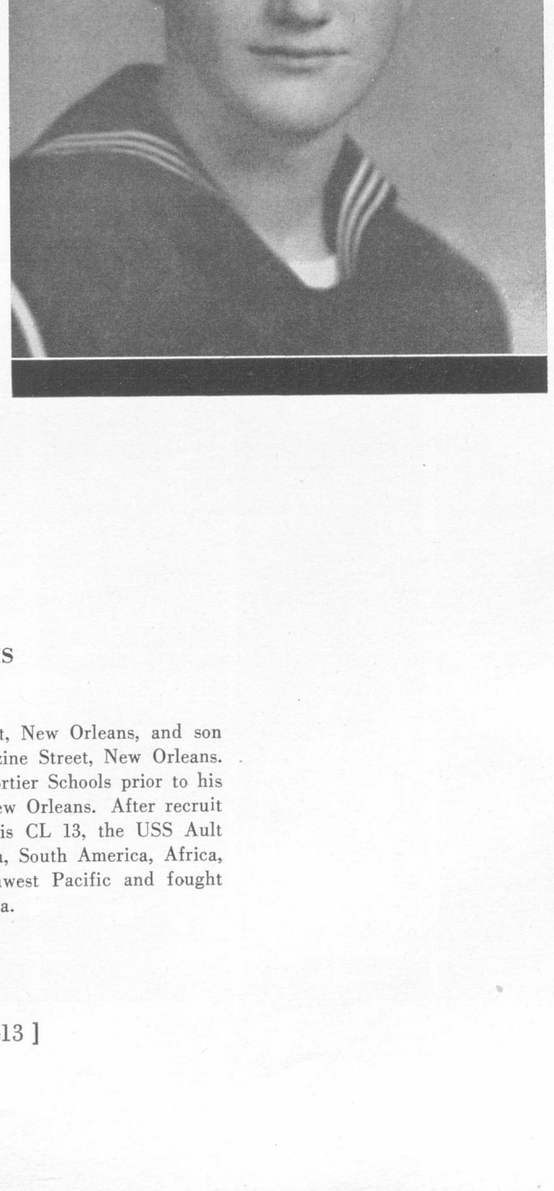
Husband of Katie Irene Beaujeaux of Mandeville, La., he was born Jan. 30, 1917, and attended Mandeville and Our Lady of the Lake Schools. Entering the service April 2, 1943, Beaujeaux received training at Lincoln Army Air Base, Nebr., Lockheed Service School, Calif., and Niagara Falls, N. Y. He departed Jan. 1, 1945, for overseas and served at Bellowsfield as an aircraft mechanic. He holds the Good Conduct Medal. Sgt. Beaujeaux was discharged Feb. 26, 1946, at Camp Fannin, Tex.

④ William H. Hannon

T/5, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John T. Hannon and husband of Rita Mae Hannon of New Orleans, La. He was born Dec. 22, 1919, and attended Fortier High School. Entering the service Nov. 30, 1942, he received training at Camp Howze, Texas, and was later assigned to Camp Claiborne, La. He departed Sept. 20, 1944, for England and participated in the Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. Hannon is the holder of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal and Good Conduct Medal. After three years of faithful service to his country he was discharged Nov. 4, 1945. He is the father of Rita Dian and Mary Ilene Hannon.





William Henry Chevis

FC 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Myrtle Cecile Chevis, 1003 South Clark Street, New Orleans, and son of Wallace Leighton and Agnes Marie Chevis, 7028 Magazine Street, New Orleans. He was born Sept. 16, 1922, and attended Audubon and Fortier Schools prior to his induction into the United States Navy Oct. 30, 1940, at New Orleans. After recruit training at Norfolk, Va., he served with the USS Memphis CL 13, the USS Ault DD 698, and the USS Holder DD 819. He served in Cuba, South America, Africa, the Central Pacific, the Southwest Pacific and the Northwest Pacific and fought in the Campaigns of the Philippines, Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Paul T. D'Albor

② John A. Dupuy

③ Lester Bernard Cutrer

④ Melva Cutrer Bailey

⑤ Lucille M. Landry

⑥ Norman Joseph Landry

⑦ Warren L. Landry

⑧ Charles Richard Landry

⑨ Delos H. Stockstill

⑩ Grover Cleveland Roberts

⑪ Warren J. Stockstill

⑫ Wallace A. Stockstill

⑬ William Nelson Coxe

⑭ John M. Coxe

⑮ Malcolm S. Coxe

⑯ Ellis Lee Wax

⑰ Harold Wilford Clement

⑱ Carl Hugh Clement

⑲ Darrell Gordon Clement

⑳ Charles Henry Wax

① PAUL T. D'ALBOR, Sergeant, CE, CAC

Husband of Mrs. Mary Belle D'Albor, 803 Merriam Street, Plaquemine, and father of Paula Ann D'Albor. He is the son of Mrs. Louise Kratzer D'Albor and Felix J. D'Albor of 714 Main Street, Plaquemine. He attended St. John's and Plaquemine High Schools and Louisiana State University and was manager of the furniture department, F. J. D'Albor Company. He entered the Engineers, Coast Artillery Corps, on May 28, 1941, at Camp Livingston, and went to Fort Belvoir, Va., for engineer training. He served at Fort Monroe, Va., in clerical and Harbor Defense work. He served at Headquarters Southeastern Sector, CAC, Raleigh, N. C., in secret and confidential matters, and at Fort Miles, Del., in the same capacity. He was granted his honorable discharge at Fort Miles on Nov. 2, 1945.

② JOHN A. DUPUY, Coxswain, USCG

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Dupuy of 803 Merriam Street, Plaquemine. He was born in 1921 and is a graduate of St. John High School, Plaquemine. Entering the United States Coast Guard on Sept. 9, 1942, at New Orleans, Coxswain Dupuy served on harbor and coastal patrol duty based at the United States Coast Guard Station at New Orleans. On Jan. 3, 1945, he embarked for the Pacific area where he served on patrol and security duty at American bases in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. Returning to New Orleans, Coxswain Dupuy was granted his honorable discharge at the Coast Guard separation center there on April 6, 1946, after more than three and a half years of faithful and unselfish service in the United States Coast Guard.

③ LESTER BERNARD CUTRER, M 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Cutrer of Amite, La. He was born June 11, 1920, and is a graduate of the Amite High School. Prior to entering the armed forces, he was engaged in war construction work. Lester is the husband of Mrs. Clausel Cutrer of Amite, La.

(N. M. I. A.)

④ MELVA CUTRER BAILEY,

Pvt., Women's U. S. Marine Corps

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Cutrer of Amite, La. She was born Aug. 22, 1926, and is a graduate of the Amite High School. Upon graduation she entered the armed forces.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑤ LUCILLE M. LANDRY, U. S. Air Force

Daughter of Mrs. Alfred Landry of Donaldsonville, La., was born Oct. 23, 1917. She attended the Donaldsonville High School and on March 6, 1945, she entered the armed forces at New Orleans, La. She was stationed at Maxwell Field, Ala., as a general clerk. She was awarded the WAC Service Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. Lucille was honorably discharged Oct. 10, 1945, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

⑥ NORMAN JOSEPH LANDRY, U. S. Army Engineers

Son of Mrs. Alfred Landry of Donaldsonville, La. He was born March 16, 1922, and attended the Donaldsonville High School. Nov. 11, 1942, he entered the armed forces at Camp Beauregard, La. He was later sent to Camp Claiborne, La., for his basic training. Departing Jan. 31, 1944, for England, he served in England and France as a truck driver. He participated in the campaigns in Normandy and Northern France. Norman received an honorable discharge Nov. 13, 1945. He re-enlisted Aug. 19, 1946.

⑦ WARREN L. LANDRY, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Alfred Landry of Donaldsonville, La., he was born March 9, 1926, and attended Donaldsonville High School. Entering the service July 13, 1944, he received training at Camp Riley, Camp Whitside, Fort Knox, Fort Meade and Camp Stoneman. Landry departed June 21, 1945, for overseas and served at Kobe, Takarazuka, Matsiyama, Okayama, Kokura, Oita and Yokohama as a jeep driver. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Japan Occupation Ribbon, Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Aug. 20, 1946.

⑧ CHARLES RICHARD LANDRY, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Alfred Landry of 419 Railroad Avenue, Donaldsonville, La., he attended Donaldsonville High School. Charles entered the Army Air Force Sept. 16, 1942, and was assigned to Camp Crowder, Mo., for training. Later he was sent to Portland, Ore., then to San Diego, Calif. Departing Oct. 3, 1943, for the Hawaiian Islands, he served at Wheeler and Hickam Fields. He participated in the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with four Battle Stars and the Good Conduct Medal. PFC Landry was discharged Jan. 13, 1946.

⑨ DELOS H. STOCKSTILL, Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Stockstill of 3550 Canonicus Street, Baton Rouge, La., he was born April 5, 1922. Delos is the husband of Gussie Stockstill of the above mentioned address. He attended school at Bayou Chene, La., and prior to his service with the U. S. Army was employed by the Dredge Company. Delos entered the U. S. Army Oct. 13, 1942, at St. Martinville, La., and was assigned to Camp Adair, Ore., where he served as a sergeant.

⑩ GROVER CLEVELAND ROBERTS,

S/Sgt., U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. David Abner Roberts and husband of Marguerite Roberts, he was born Aug. 3, 1921. Roberts attended Baton Rouge High School and prior to his services with the U. S. Army was a restaurant manager. Entering the Marines Dec. 1, 1942, he was assigned to San Diego, Calif., Camp Mirimar, Cherry Point, N. C., and Charleston, S. C. He departed Dec. 19, 1943, for overseas and participated in the bitter fighting at Leyte, Mindoro, Mindanao, Philippine Islands, Bougainville and the Solomon Islands. He was awarded a Presidential Citation, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with three Stars, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. He was discharged Dec. 11, 1945.

⑪ WARREN J. STOCKSTILL, Cpl., U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Stockstill of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Jan. 2, 1920, and attended Bayou Chene School. Entering the service Nov. 17, 1942, Warren was assigned to San Diego, Calif.,

later being sent to New Rivers, N. C., and Corpus Christi, Texas. He departed Jan. 18, 1943, for Hawaii where he served with the Military Police. He was discharged at Corpus Christi, Texas.

⑫ WALLACE A. STOCKSTILL, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Stockstill of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Jan. 20, 1926, and attended St. Martinville High School. Entering the service March 13, 1944, Stockstill was assigned to Camp Barkeley, Texas, for basic training, later being sent to Camp Shanks, N. Y. He departed Oct. 29, 1944, for overseas as an infantryman and participated in the bitter fighting of the Battle of the Bulge, Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns. He was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. Stockstill was discharged May 25, 1946, after more than two two years of meritorious service for his country.

⑬ WILLIAM NELSON COXE, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Elmo Nettie Coxe and the late Silas E. Coxe of Watson, La., and husband of Margery Norman Coxe of Ft. Myers, Fla., he was born Oct. 14, 1909, and attended Live Oak High School, Louisiana State University and Tulane University. Entering the service Nov. 9, 1940, he received training at Craig Field, Ala., served as executive officer at Freeman Field, Ind., and Napier Field, Ala., was assistant project officer for inactivation of the fields closing at Turner Field, Ga., and was commanding officer of Buckingham Army Air Field, Fla. He is the father of Margery Alice Coxe.

⑭ JOHN M. COXE, Captain, U. S. Army

Son of Nettie Milton Coxe of Weiss, La., he was born May 18, 1918, and attended Live Oak High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the service April 7, 1941, Coxe was assigned to Ft. Bragg, N. C., for training, later being sent to Camp Shelby, Miss. He then transferred to the Air Force and received training at Kelly Field, Texas, Waco, Texas, and Bonham, Texas. He departed Dec. 5, 1943, for overseas as an operations officer and participated in the bitter fighting of Air Offensive of Europe, Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. Captain Coxe was awarded the Bronze Star and Presidential Unit Citation. He was discharged Dec. 18, 1945, after more than four years of meritorious service for his country.

⑮ MALCOLM S. COXE, T/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Silas E. Coxe and husband of Mary B. Coxe, he was born June 30, 1907, and attended Walker High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the service April 1, 1943, he was assigned to Fort McClellan, Ala., for training, later being sent to Camp Bowie, Texas, for Ordnance training. He departed Oct. 4, 1944, for overseas and served with the Purchasing Commission as translator-interpreter in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. Sergeant Coxe participated in the Central Europe and Rhineland Campaigns. He is the holder of the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon with two Bronze Stars. After more than two years of faithful service to his country he was discharged Oct. 15, 1945.

⑯ ELLIS LEE WAX, S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wax of Denham Springs, La. He was born July 7, 1915, and attended the Denham Springs High School. Prior to entering the armed forces, he was engaged in farming. Ellis is the husband of Hazel Williams Wax. He entered the U. S. Army Jan. 13, 1941.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑰ HAROLD WILFORD CLEMENT, AOM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Adam Clement of Denham Springs, La., he was born Dec. 24, 1925. He attended school in Denham Springs and worked as a rigger before entering the Navy on March 4, 1944, at New Orleans, La. He received his boot training at San Diego, Calif., before sailing in April, 1944, for the Hawaiian Islands. He served on a carrier and saw action in three major air battles. After serving his country unselfishly for nearly two years in the Navy he was discharged at New Orleans, La., in January, 1946.

⑱ CARL HUGH CLEMENT, Coxswain, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Adam Clement of Denham Springs, La., he was born Dec. 3, 1923. He attended schools in Denham Springs and was later employed by the Kansas City Bridge Company. On June 18, 1943, he was inducted into the service and assigned to the Navy, receiving his boot training at San Diego. In October, 1943, he embarked for the Hawaiian Islands and saw action at Saipan, Gilberts, Iwo Jima, Ellice, Marshalls and Okinawa. He holds the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Stars, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal with seven Stars and the American Theater Campaign Medal. He was discharged at New Orleans on Jan. 30, 1946.

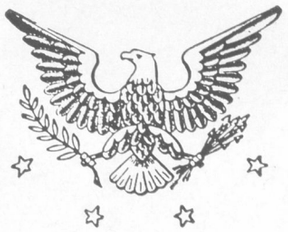
⑲ DARRELL GORDON CLEMENT, Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Adam Clement of Denham Springs, La., he was born July 29, 1922. After attending schools in Denham Springs he was employed by the International Harvester Company before entering the Army on Nov. 23, 1942, at Baton Rouge. He received his basic training at Ft. Riley, Kan., and Camp Ellis, Calif. On May 22, 1944, he sailed for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations and saw action as a gunner in the Philippines, Ryukyus and Okinawa. Corporal Clement holds the Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, American Theater Campaign Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal. On Jan. 11, 1946, he received his discharge at Camp Fannin, Texas.

⑳ CHARLES HENRY WAX, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wax of Denham Springs, La. He was born March 6, 1922, and attended the Denham Springs High School. He was engaged in farming before entering the armed forces. Charles entered the U. S. Army Oct. 28, 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)



William C. Watts

Seaman 1/C, U. S. N.

Husband of Hazel N. Watts, Route 4, Baton Rouge, and father of Charlotte Ann Watts. He was born July 30, 1915, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William G. Watts of Baton Rouge, and attended Central High School. He was employed by Standard Oil Company of Louisiana. He enlisted in the United States Navy June 20, 1945, at New Orleans and went to San Diego, Calif., for training at the U. S. Naval Training Center there. On Oct. 20, 1945, he embarked for duty with the First Special Naval Construction Battalion on Okinawa and at Sasebo, Japan. Returning to the States, he received his honorable discharge March 20, 1946, at New Orleans.

Denny P. Michelli

SF 3/C, USNCB

Husband of Floy K. Michelli, 3508 Roppolo Street, Baton Rouge, and father of Carl L. Michelli and Denny P. Michelli, Jr. He was born May 9, 1919, the son of Mrs. Mary Michelli and the late Carlo Michelli, 3820 Plank Road. He attended Istrouma High School and was a service station attendant and aircraft mechanic prior to his induction into the United States Naval Construction Battalions on May 16, 1944, at New Orleans. He served at Camp Wallace, Texas, and Camp Elliott, San Diego, Calif., embarking Sept. 16, 1944, for Pearl Harbor. He served at Pearl Harbor and on Guam with the 72nd Naval Construction Battalion, the 103rd Naval Construction Battalion, and the 301st Naval Construction Battalion. He served on detached duty for twelve months with the Farm Program on Guam. Shipfitter Michelli received his honorable discharge from the Seabees Jan. 14, 1946, at New Orleans.

Wesley Marks Stockstill

Private, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Stockstill and husband of Sadie Stockstill, he was born Oct. 14, 1917. Stockstill attended Bayou Chene School and prior to his services with the U. S. Army he was an oil field worker. Entering the service June 26, 1945, at Camp Chaffee, Ark., Stockstill was assigned to Fort Lewis, Wash., for duty. He was discharged Aug. 9, 1946. Stockstill is the father of Rebecca Jean and Cynthia Gail Stockstill.

Edwin J. Dupuy, Jr.

Mo MM 3/C, Seabees

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Dupuy, 803 Merriam Street, Plaquemine. He was born Sept. 27, 1919, and was a machinist with Nadler Foundry and Machine Company, Plaquemine, prior to entering the United States Naval Construction Battalions (Seabees) on May 18, 1944, at New Orleans. He served at Camp Wallace, Hitchcock, Texas, and at Camp Haan, Calif., prior to embarking on Sept. 10, 1944, for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations. Motor Machinist Mate Dupuy served at Naval bases at Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, at Guam in the Mariana Islands, and at Truk in the Caroline Islands as a machinist in the shop maintained by Naval Construction Battalion units. He was continuing to serve in this capacity following the cessation of hostilities.

Louis Vardiman Henderson

Carpenter's Mate 1/C, USNCB

Husband of Gladys Ann Henderson, 5515 Prescott Lane, Baton Rouge, and father of Wanda Rita Henderson. He was born June 30, 1910, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Henderson of Denham Springs, and attended Denham Springs High School. He was engaged in construction work prior to entering the United States Naval Construction Battalions (Seabees) on Sept. 21, 1943, at New Orleans. He went to Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., and Camp Endicott, Davisville, R. I., for military training and embarked Jan. 30, 1944, for Casablanca, French Morocco, serving also at Oran in Algeria, Tunis in Tunisia, Palermo in Sicily, Naples and Rome in Italy, in construction and repair work. He served in the transport of troops from Corsica to Italy, and at Toulon and Marseilles. He was in combat at Anzio and Toulon and has the European and American Theater of Operations Ribbons and two Navy Commendations.

John W. Henderson

Petty Officer 2/C, USCG

Husband of Sammie Heath Henderson, 726 North 26th Street, Baton Rouge, and father of Gerry Lynn Henderson. He was born June 1, 1915, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Henderson of Denham Springs, and attended Denham Springs High School, working for E. I. Dupont de Nemours Company prior to entering the United States Coast Guard Reserve on May 20, 1942, at New Orleans. He served at the New Orleans Receiving Station, the Naval Repair Base at Port Arthur, Texas, the District Coast Guard Office at Long Beach, Calif., and the Receiving Station at Wilmington, Calif. He embarked for sea duty May 4, 1944, and served at Ketchikan, Alaska, at Point Higgins Radio Station (SC). Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on Sept. 28, 1945.

George Willard Henderson

Tec/Sgt., U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James B. Henderson of Denham Springs and father of George Willard Henderson, Jr., Lillie Marie and James Robert Henderson. He was born Sept. 23, 1912, and attended Denham Springs High School. He was a construction worker prior to entering the United States Marine Corps on July 14, 1942, at New Orleans. He served at Camp Elliott and Camp Linda Vista, Calif., assigned to duty as machine gun instructor, truck operator and cook. On March 12, 1943, he embarked for New Caledonia from which he served as mess sergeant and supply truck operator in Guadalcanal, the Russell Islands, Tulagi, Guam and Okinawa. He took part in the combat of the great Marine Invasions of Guam and Okinawa, and has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Asiatic Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Navy Distinguished Unit Citation Badge. He was honorably discharged Oct. 22, 1945, at Camp Pendleton, Oceanside, Calif.

Louis Earhart Kissgen

Chief Storekeeper, Seabees

Husband of Vera Swan Kissgen, 617 Eighth Street, New Orleans, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Kissgen of New Orleans. He attended Tulane University of Louisiana and received his BBA degree in 1930. He was an accountant prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve (Seabees) on March 29, 1943, at New Orleans. From the Naval Construction Training Center, Camp Peary, Williamsburg, Va., he went to the Advance Base Depot, Hueneme, Calif., and Camp Parks, Shoemaker, Calif. He embarked for Tulagi in the Solomon Islands Aug. 22, 1943, and was attached to the U. S. Naval Base on Tulagi (CBD 1010). He was attached to the 14th Defense Battalion (Marine) on Guam in the Marianas, and fought in the recapture of Guam and its liberation from the enemy. He has a Campaign Star and a Unit Citation for outstanding performance of duty in action against the enemy for the Guam campaign. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge Oct. 25, 1945, at New Orleans.

Calvin Earhart Kissgen

SK 1/C, U. S. Naval Reserve

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Kissgen, 916 Aline Street, New Orleans. He was born Jan. 4, 1912, and attended Live Oak and Warren Easton High Schools and Tulane University of Louisiana. He was an accountant prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve Feb. 28, 1942. He was assigned to duty at the Naval Receiving Station, Algiers, and at Headquarters Eighth Naval District, New Orleans, as ship's store manager. He embarked for the South Atlantic area on Dec. 22, 1944, assigned to the Fourth Fleet, Naval Operating Facility, Recife, Brazil, and Naval Operating Base, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge March 7, 1946, at New Orleans.

Valentine Earhart Kissgen

Lieutenant, Civil Engineer Corps, USNR

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Kissgen, 916 Aline Street, New Orleans. He was born July 24, 1917, and attended Live Oak and Alcee Fortier High Schools and Tulane University. He was a civil engineer prior to entering the United States Naval Reserve March 9, 1942. From Camp Allen, Norfolk, Va., he went to the Advance Base Depot, Port Hueneme, Calif., and Construction Battalion Replacement Depot, Camp Parks, Calif. He was assigned to Public Works School, Naval Construction Training Center, Davisville, R. I., and Third Naval District, New York City. On June 8, 1942, he embarked for the South Pacific area on duty with the Third Naval Construction Battalion in the Fiji Islands, Ellice Islands, Wallis Island and New Caledonia. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Medal. Lieutenant Kissgen returned to the States and was honorably discharged Feb. 15, 1946, at New Orleans.

Dudley M. Koepp

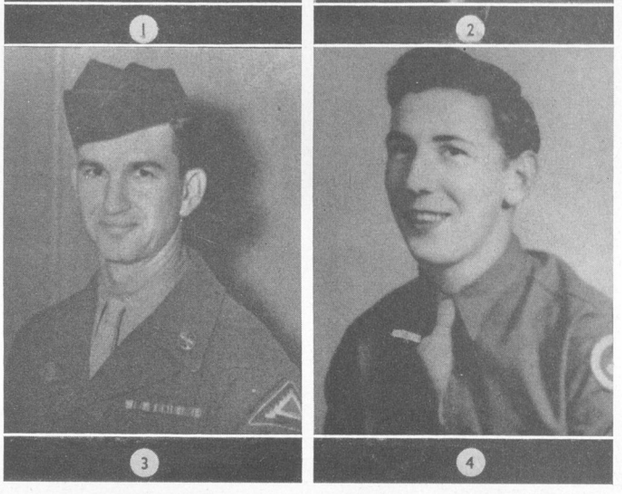
Sergeant, Air Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Koepp, Jr., of Madisonville, La. He was born Dec. 5, 1916, and attended the Madisonville Junior High School and the Lyon High School. Prior to entering the armed forces, he completed a business course. Aug. 14, 1945, he entered the Army Air Force at New Orleans, La., and was later stationed at Sheppard Field, Texas, and Lowry Field, Denver, Colo. He received the Good Conduct Medal and was honorably discharged Nov. 11, 1946, at Lowry Field, Denver, Colo. Dudley is the husband of Mildred E. Koepp of Madisonville, La.



The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA





① Lena (Lee) Margiotta

First Lieutenant, Army Nurse Corps

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Margiotta, Montgomery Street, Bogalusa. She was born August 29, 1921, and attended Bogalusa High School and Elizabeth Sullivan Memorial Hospital, Bogalusa, from which she was graduated September 15, 1942. Enlisting in the Army Nurse Corps on November 16, 1942, at Camp Wolters, Texas, she served at Camp Wolters on general duty. On February 27, 1944, she embarked for England and went to France on June 23, 1945, assigned to general nursing duty. She has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, and was granted her honorable discharge at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on January 21, 1946.

② Ivy R. Ermon

Tec/4, AAA, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Ivy Robert Ermon, 734 Louque Place, New Orleans. He was born January 28, 1924, and attended Beauregard, Warren Easton High, and Delgado Trades Schools. On June 11, 1943, he entered the Army in Anti-Aircraft at New Orleans and served at Camp Callan, Calif., Fort Bliss, Texas, Camp Carson, Col., and Camp Gruber, Okla. He went to the European Theater on January 8, 1945, and served in England, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Austria, assigned to duty as a mortar gunner, Company E, 328th Infantry Regiment, 26th Division. He was in combat in the Campaigns of the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. Sergeant Ermon has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with three Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on March 27, 1946.

③ Emmett Lee Primeaux

Corporal, U. S. Army

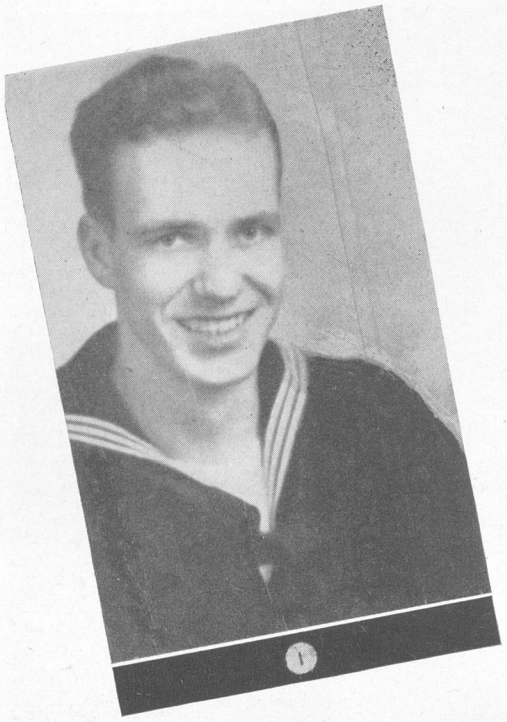
Husband of Catherine B. Primeaux and father of Suzanne Linda and Ely Emmett Primeaux of Gretna, La. He was born September 3, 1920, and attended the Gretna High School and Biarritz American University, Biarritz, France. August 31, 1944, he entered the armed forces at New Orleans, La. He was later stationed at Fort Sill, Okla., and Camp Meade, Md. Departing Feb. 15, 1945, for the European Theater of Operations, he served in England, France, Belgium, Holland and Germany as cannoneer on 8-inch Howitzer. He participated in the campaigns on the Rhine River and in Central Germany and was awarded the European Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and two Battle Stars. Emmett received an honorable discharge April 2, 1946, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

④ Kenneth C. Guevas, Jr.

Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Guevas of Hammond, La., he was born March 22, 1927, and attended Hammond High School before entering the service on June 28, 1945, at Camp Chaffee, Ark. Later he was assigned to Sheppard Field, Texas, Buckley Field, Colo., New Orleans Air Base, Drew Field, Fla., Ft. Riley, Kan., Goldsboro, N. C., and Greensboro, N. C. At each of these fields he served as a dental assistant. On March 20, 1946, he was shipped to the European Theater and served in France, Stuttgart and Berlin. Cpl. Guevas was discharged from the U. S. Army in Jan., 1946, re-enlisted, and is now stationed in Berlin with the Army of Occupation.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

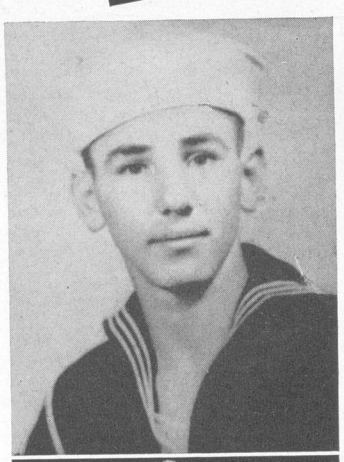


Radio Communication School, Indianapolis, Ind., and Electronic Technician School, Treasure Island, Cal. From Port Hueneme he embarked in February, 1943, for Guadalcanal and served in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, the Russell Islands, Viru Harbor, Munda on New Georgia, with ComAirPac, Hawaii, and with the USS Intrepid CV 11 as Electronic Technician Mate First Class. He was in combat in the New Georgia Campaign, Okinawa, and the Naval battles of Japan and has the Presidential Unit Citation with both the Third and the Fifth U. S. Fleets. He was honorably discharged Dec. 28, 1945, at New Orleans.

② JOHN LOTO

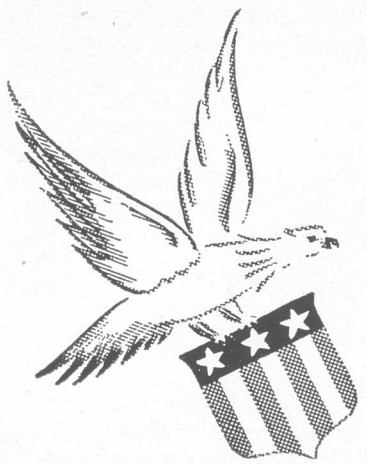
S 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Loto of Baton Rouge, La. He was born October 4, 1924, and attended Baton Rouge Grammar and High Schools. He entered the U. S. Navy in 1942. (N. M. I. A.)



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① HAROLD ERLE KYTLE

ETM 1/C, USNR

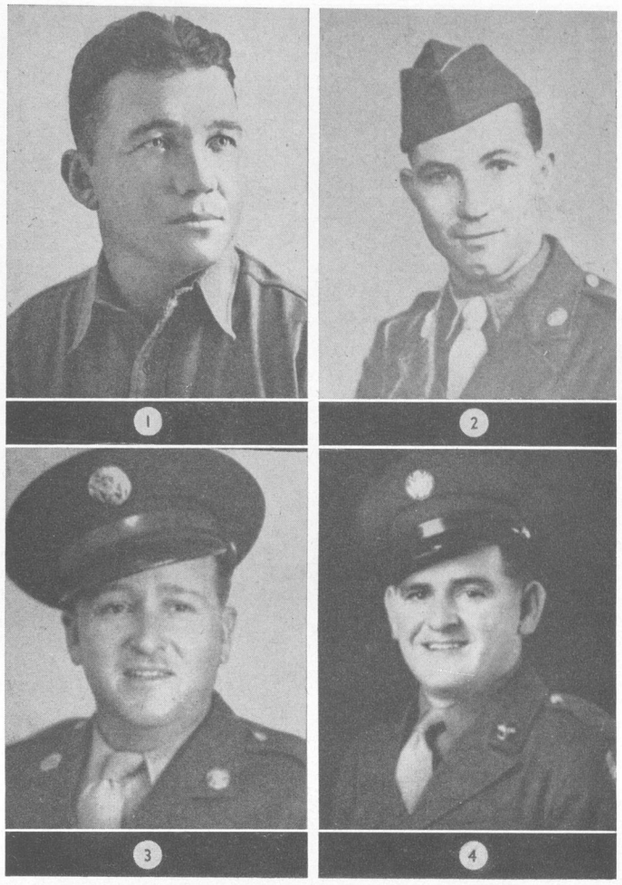
Son of Mr. Garnett Kytle, 410 Clay Street, Kenner. He was born June 30, 1920, and attended Kenner High, Southwestern Louisiana Institute, and Tulane University, entering the United States Naval Reserve July 14, 1941. He served at the Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Va., with Aircraft Warning Company, Signal Battalion, Camp LeJeune, New River, N. C., at

③ SAM LOTO

He was born April 7, 1929, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Loto of Baton Rouge, La. He attended the Baton Rouge Grammar and High Schools and entered the armed forces in 1942.

(N. M. I. A.)

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① James Herman Bennett

T/5, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Bennett of Colfax, La., and husband of Bettie Murrell Bennett, he was born Feb. 20, 1913. Bennett attended Colfax High School. Entering the service June 15, 1942, he received training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., Camp Pickett, Va., and Camp Kilmer, N. J. He departed Nov. 1, 1942, for overseas where he participated in the Tunisia and Sicily campaigns, Naples, Foggia, Rhineland and Central Europe. Bennett was awarded six battle stars and the Good Conduct Medal. He served as cook on Hitler's personal yacht the Hansestadt Koln. Bennett was discharged Oct. 11, 1945.

② Elton James Larpenter

Private First Class, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas William Larpenter of Vinton. He was born December 4, 1914, and attended school at Ponchatoula. Entering the Army of the United States at Lake Charles November 15, 1940, he went to Camp Blanding, Fla., as a rifleman and to Camp Bowie, Texas, for further training. On Sept. 23, 1942, he embarked for England and served in Northern France, Belgium, and Germany as a combat infantryman. He fought in the campaigns of Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe, and has the American Defense Service Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with battle stars. He was granted his honorable discharge Oct. 29, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

③ John Wesley Montgomery

U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Henry Montgomery of Ponchatoula, La. He was born March 3, 1914, and attended public schools in Ponchatoula. Prior to entering the armed forces, Dec. 21, 1943, at Fort Bliss, Texas, he was Manager of Supply and Equipment for Oilfield Services. He was first assigned to Ft. Bliss, Texas, later to Camp Plauche, New Orleans, La., Camp Reynolds, Penn., and Camp Shanks, New York, awaiting overseas shipment. July 23, 1944, he departed for England, later serving in France, Belgium, and Germany. He participated in the campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe and was in the Battle of Metz, France, and the Bulge in beginning of Siegfried Line. He was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal, a Meritorious Citation, and the Good Conduct Medal. John is the husband of Dortha Decker Montgomery. He was honorably discharged Oct. 18, 1945, at Fort Bliss, Texas.

④ Nelson G. Cheramie

PFC, Army Air Forces

Husband of Mildred S. Cheramie, 111 Engeron St., Houma, and father of Nelson G. Cheramie, Jr., and Frazia M. Cheramie. He was born Aug. 26, 1921, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bertoul P. Cheramie of Houma. He attended Golden Meadow High School and was general manager for Morgan City Packing Company, Main Office, Houma. He entered the Army Air Forces on August 29, 1944, at Camp Robinson, Ark., and served at Fort Sill, Okla., Sheppard Field, Texas, Hendricks Field, Fla., and Camp Kearns, Utah. He was assigned to duty in technical supply. He has the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, World War II Victory Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge April 21, 1946, at Fort Douglas, Utah.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Edward C. Capron, Jr.

② Lowell P. Singletary

③ Russell Joseph Dupuy

④ Peter Nelger Bourgeois

⑤ Edwin J. Molaison

⑥ Millard M. Hebert

⑦ Riley Hebert

⑧ Lloyd P. Hebert

⑨ Joseph T. Molaison

⑩ Paul W. Molaison

⑪ Floyd Phillip Jaureau

⑫ Lee Vester Harrison

⑬ Willie Buster Harrison

⑭ Ray Everett Harrison

⑮ Roy Floyd Harrison

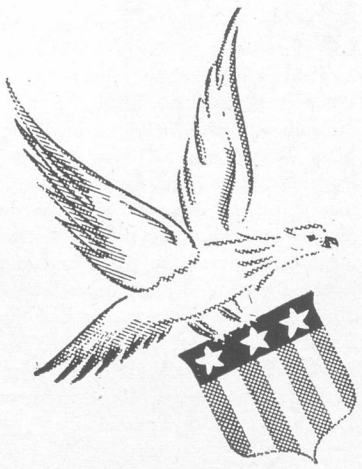
⑯ Don M. Harrison

⑰ Thomas E. Nixon

⑱ Carl Croffard Nixon

⑲ Bruce Johnson

⑳ Elsnert Paul Mayet



① EDWARD C. CAPRON, JR., Sergeant, FA, Army

Husband of Mrs. Willery Singletary Capron, Route 2, Gonzales, and father of Don Raymond Capron. He was born Nov. 29, 1920, and is the son of Mrs. Mae Varnados, 8541 Belfast St., New Orleans. Inducted in the Field Artillery Aug. 20, 1944, at New Orleans, he went to Fort Riley, Kan., as supply clerk, then to Camp Ibis, Cal., and Camp Polk for duty. He embarked Aug. 20, 1944, for Scotland, and served in England, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Germany, assigned to duty as supply clerk. Sergeant Capron was in combat in Northern France, the Rhineland, and the Ardennes, and has the Presidential Unit Citation Badge, Good Conduct Medal, European Theater of Operations, and the Purple Heart for wounds received in Belgium in the Battle of the Bulge, 1944, awarded at Miami Beach Sept. 8, 1945. He was taken prisoner of war by German tankers near Bastogne Dec. 18, 1944, and was liberated April 29, 1945, after many experiences, at Westertimke. He was honorably discharged at Camp Crowder, Mo., Oct. 12, 1945.

② LOWELL P. SINGLETARY, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Watson Singletary of Route 2, Gonzales. He was born Jan. 26, 1927, and attended Gonzales High School. He entered the United States Coast Guard on Jan. 17, 1945, at New Orleans. He went to Curtis Bay, Md., boot camp, and was assigned to duty at Jacksonville, Fla. (decommissioned ships), and San Diego, Cal., as a seaman. He embarked April 28, 1945, for Oran, North Africa, and received further training in Cuba and Pearl Harbor. His ship captured one German submarine on May 7, 1945. He was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on April 20, 1946.

③ RUSSELL JOSEPH DUPUY, Staff Sergeant, Army

Husband of Mrs. Zula S. Dupuy of Lutcher and father of James Russell Dupuy. He was born July 26, 1920, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Dupuy of Lutcher, and attended Paulina Catholic and public schools and Lutcher High School. He enlisted in the Coast Artillery Corps Feb. 17, 1941, serving at Fort Barrancas, Fla., and Camp Stewart, Georgia, as a gun commander, AAA (CA). He transferred to the Infantry at Camp Van Dorn, Miss., and served at Camp McCain as assistant squad leader. Embarking August 6, 1944, for England, he served in England (staging area), and in combat in France and Germany as assistant squad leader and platoon guide. He fought in Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. Staff Sergeant Dupuy has the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster for wounds received Feb. 17 and March 21, both in Germany. He was honorably discharged at Camp Shelby Aug. 4, 1945, after four and one-half years of faithful service and three great campaigns.

④ PETER NELGER BOURGEOIS, T/S, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Phovestie Bourgeois and husband of Mrs. Ethel Mae Bourgeois, of Saint Amant, La. He was born Sept. 17, 1920. After attending school at Saint Amant, La., he was inducted into the army on November 3, 1941, at Donaldsonville. After more than two years training in the United States he embarked for Europe on Jan. 22, 1944, and saw action at Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland and Central Europe. T/S Bourgeois holds the Bronze Star and the Good Conduct Medal. After nearly four years of unselfish service to his country, he received his discharge at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Oct. 10, 1945.

⑤ EDWIN J. MOLAISON, Corporal, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Ed Molaison and husband of Clara Mae Molaison he was born March 15, 1918, and attended Brusly High School. Entering the service May 28, 1942, Molaison received training at Ft. Knox, Ky., Camp Forrest, Tenn., and Camp Bowie, Texas. He departed Dec. 29, 1943, for overseas and participated in the bitter fighting in Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, Central Europe, Battle at St. Lo, Metz, Bastogne, Rhine River. Cpl. Molaison was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Good Conduct Medal and Unit Citation with one bronze star. After more than three years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged Oct. 23, 1945.

⑥ MILLARD M. HEBERT, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Justin Hebert of Brusly, La., he was born April 8, 1919, and attended Brusly High School. Entering the armed forces Aug. 22, 1941, Hebert was assigned to Ft. Bragg, N. C., Camp Shelby, Miss., and Camp Sutton, N. C. He departed Aug. 21, 1943, for overseas and participated in the bitter fighting of the Naples-Foggia and Rome-Arno Campaigns. Cpl. Hebert died Feb. 18, 1944, of wounds received while serving with Battery A, 141st Field Artillery Battalion in Italy.

⑦ RILEY HEBERT, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Justin Hebert of Brusly, La., he was born June 28, 1912, and attended Brusly High School. Entering the armed forces Mar. 9, 1942, Hebert was assigned to Camp Grant, Ill., Camp Haan, Calif., as hospital orderly in the Medical Corps. He departed Aug., 1943, for New Caledonia and served on Guadalcanal as First Aid Man. He participated in the Northern Solomons Campaign. Sgt. Hebert is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon and Good Conduct Ribbon. He was discharged Aug. 31, 1945.

⑧ LLOYD P. HEBERT, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Justin Hebert of Brusly, La., he was born April 9, 1922, and attended Brusly High School. Entering the U. S. Army Nov. 16, 1942, Hebert was sent to Camp Haan, Calif., for training, later being sent to Camp Young, Calif., Camp Pickett, Va., and Camp Davis, N. C. He departed April 25, 1943, for overseas and participated in the bitter fighting of the Sicilian, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, North Apennines and Po Valley Campaigns. He is the holder of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theatre Medal and Good Conduct Medal. After three years of meritorious service for his country Sgt. Hebert was discharged Oct. 22, 1945.

⑨ JOSEPH T. MOLAISON, T/4, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Celestine Molaison he was born Aug. 19, 1920, and attended Brusly High School. Prior to his services with the U. S. Army he was employed as a telegraph operator for Texas and Pacific Railway Co. Molaison entered the service August 21, 1944, and received training at Ft. Francis E. Warren, Wyo. He departed Dec. 19, 1944, for overseas where he was a telegraph operator for Luzon Military Railway. Molaison participated in the bitter fighting of the southern Philippines. He holds the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with two bronze stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one bronze star, Philippine Independence Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Unit Award and Victory Ribbon. He was discharged Oct. 6, 1946.

⑩ PAUL W. MOLAISON, T/5, U. S. Army

Husband of Alice Marie Molaison and father of Terry James and Deanna Marie Molaison of Plaquemine, La., he was born April 19, 1916, the son of Mrs. Celestine Molaison. He attended Claiborne Grammar School of Shreveport, La., and Brusly High School of Brusly, La. On Nov. 15, 1944, he entered the armed forces and was assigned to Camp Fannin, Texas. Departing April 1, 1945, for Weymouth, England, he later served in France, Belgium, Austria and Germany with the transportation corps. Molaison participated in the Rhineland Campaign and is the holder of the European Theatre Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Occupational Ribbon and the Victory Medal. He was discharged May 9, 1946.

⑪ FLOYD PHILLIP JAUREAU, Coxswain 1st Division, U. S. Uavy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Jaureau of New Roads, La. He was born Oct. 22, 1922, and attended the Poydras School. He entered the armed forces Nov. 9, 1942. (N.M.I.A.)

⑫ LEE VESTER HARRISON, Sergeant, CAC, AUS

Husband of Ruth E. Harrison and father of Trudy Lee Harrison. He was born Dec. 19, 1916, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Monroe Harrison, and graduated from Little Cypress High School, Orange, Texas.

He was battery repairman and salesman with a service station prior to his induction in the Coast Artillery Corps June 5, 1941, Sgt. Harrison served with the 55th Infantry at Camp Wolters, Texas, entering the Regular Army Sept. 18, 1941, at the Coast Artillery Camp on Malicola, Honolulu. Reassigned to Fort MacArthur, Cal., with the 521st Coast Artillery, Long Beach, Cal., he embarked Oct. 11, 1941, for the Pacific Area. He volunteered as gunner on five combat missions over Guadalcanal from Fiji, then went to Bougainville as Anti-Aircraft Artillery protection for the 2nd Marine Division. He was assigned to Infantry duty in the fighting for Hill 700 on Bougainville. Sergeant Harrison has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with bronze campaign stars, the American Defense Service ribbon with star, and the Good Conduct Medal.

⑬ WILLIE BUSTER HARRISON, Seaman 2/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Mary Onelia Boudreau of Jarreau and son of Mr. and Mrs. James Monroe Harrison of New Roads. He was born April 7, 1910, and attended Pickering High School. He was a pipefitter prior to induction in the United States Naval Reserve at Lafayette on Nov. 17, 1943. From the United States Naval Training Station, San Diego, Cal., and Moffett Field, he embarked March 4, 1945, for Pearl Harbor where he served with CASU 45-1-38-2 as metalsmith and as a heavy truck and tractor operator. Returning to the States, Seaman Second Class Harrison was granted his honorable discharge at the U. S. Naval Personnel Separation Center, Naval Air Station, New Orleans, on Nov. 28, 1945.

⑭ RAY EVERETT HARRISON, Tec/5, CAC, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Monroe Harrison, he was born Oct. 23, 1921, a graduate of Poydras High School, New Roads, he entered the Coast Artillery Corps Sept. 29, 1942. He served at Camp Hulen, Texas, Camp Atterbury, Ind., Camp Davis, N. C., Fort Dix, N. J., Fort Jackson, S. C., and Camp Pickett, Va. On Feb. 2, 1944, he went to England assigned to the 90th Infantry Division and embarked from England, landing in Normandy, France, on June 10, 1944, assigned to the 915th Field Artillery. Technician Fifth Grade Harrison fought in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, the Ardennes, and Central Europe. He has the American Theater Ribbon, European Theater Ribbon with five bronze Campaign Stars, Good Conduct and Victory Medals, and the Purple Heart for wounds received June 19, 1944, in the bitter fighting at Les Hayes DePuits in Normandy, France.

⑮ ROY FLOYD HARRISON, United States Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Monroe Harrison of New Roads. He was born June 23, 1926, and attended Poydras High School at New Roads. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on June 29, 1943, at New Orleans, he went to the United States Naval Training Station, San Diego, for boot training, then to the embarkation center at San Francisco, Cal. This gallant seaman died May 15, 1944, on Majuro in the Marshall Islands, killed in an accident on the flattop USS Hornet at Macies when a fifteen-pound fire extinguisher was accidentally discharged into an assembly on deck. In the resulting panic he and two others were forced from a bay into the water by the surging crowd. His remains were recovered May 18, 1944.

⑯ DON M. HARRISON, Ordnance, Army

Husband of Eleanor Rose Butler Harrison, and father of Elaine Marie Harrison. He was born Aug. 22, 1914, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Monroe Harrison and attended Pickering High School. Entering the Army Nov. 6, 1941, he served at Camp Shelby, Miss., Camp Lee, Va., Camp Holabird, Md., and Fort Jackson, S. C. On Aug. 5, 1942, he embarked for Bristol, England, and served at Taunton, Liverpool, Glasgow (Scotland), Tidworth, Chipping Norton, and Salisbury, England, assigned to duty as a truck driver and transferring to combat with the 94th Infantry Division in the 376th Infantry Regiment. He fought in the campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the European Theater Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars, Good Conduct Medal, Expert Rifle and Pistol Badges. Discharged Sept. 24, 1945.

⑰ THOMAS E. NIXON, Tec/Sgt., Army

Veteran of the Mexican Border and World War I. He went from Kinder to U. S. Army Vocational School, New York City, and attended Fordham Tech, Western Electric Tech, and Bell Telephone Tech in New York and St. Louis and was with Bell Telephone Company prior to entering the Signal Corps Nov. 22, 1942, at Jefferson Barracks, Mo. He was an instructor at Camp Crowder, Mo., Signal Communications School, and at New Orleans Air Base prior to embarking for Glasgow Sept. 12, 1943. Technical Sergeant Nixon served in South Wales, England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany. He was wire chief, telephone and teletype communications, and section chief, very high frequency communications, with the 310th Complement Squadron, 920th Signal Company, 9th Air Force, Third U. S. Army. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four bronze campaign stars for Normandy, Southern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the American Defense Service Ribbon, the Victory and Good Conduct Medals, the Expert Pistol and Swordsman Badges, the Purple Heart for the ETO, and decorations from the Mexican Border and World War I.

⑱ CARL CROFFARD NIXON, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Hazel C. Nixon and father of Patsy Sue Nixon of Oberlin. He was born Sept. 22, 1909, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Nixon of Oberlin, and is a graduate of Kinder High School. He enlisted in the United States Navy on April 7, 1944, at Lafayette and was assigned for training to the United States Naval Training Station, San Diego, Cal. On June 4, 1944, he embarked for Pearl Harbor, Territory of Hawaii, and served in the Pacific Area with a Mobile Hospital Unit. Returning to the States, he was honorably discharged at the Naval Separation Center at New Orleans.

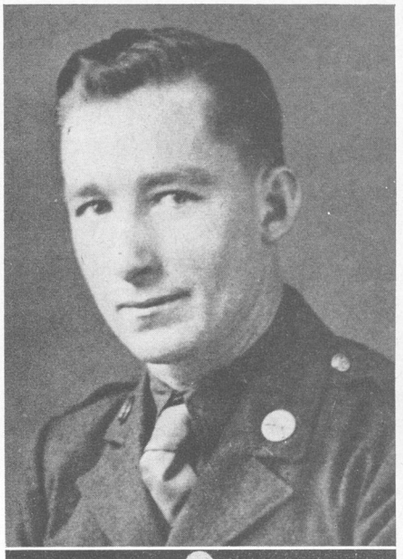
⑲ BRUCE JOHNSON, Tec/Sgt., Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Johnson of Kinder. He was born July 28, 1907, and attended Kinder schools and United States Army Vocational School, San Diego, Cal., entering the Anti-Aircraft Artillery and Field Artillery March 14, 1941, at Camp Beauregard. Technical Sergeant Johnson trained at Camp Hulen, Camp Haan, and Camp Erwin with AAA and FA units. On Dec. 23, 1943, he embarked for Glasgow, Scotland. He served in South Wales, England, France, Luxembourg, Belgium, and Germany with the duties of fire control electrician, assigned to the 118th AAA Battalion attached to the 9th Air Force with General Patton's Third U. S. Army. He fought in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Belgium, Holland, and the Rhineland, and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with five bronze Campaign Stars. He also has the American Defense Service Ribbon, the Victory Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. Sergeant Johnson was discharged with a certificate of honorable service at Camp Shelby, Miss., Nov. 5, 1945.

⑳ ELSNERT PAUL MAYET, Sergeant, CE, AUS

Husband of Mrs. Elsnert Paul Mayet of Lockport in Lafourche Parish, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph A. Mayet of Lockport. He was born Feb. 5, 1911, and attended Lockport High School. Entering the Army of the United States Nov. 12, 1942, at Camp Claiborne, he trained at Camp Claiborne and Camp Anza, Cal., with the Corps of Engineers, going to Iran with the Engineers to keep the great supply route open into Russia. Sergeant Mayet embarked March 28, 1943, for Teheran and served in Iran at Hamadam, Quem, Kharramshahr, and Abaddan, assigned to duty with the Engineers on the Russian route. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby on Dec. 7, 1945.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



1



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① Morgan F. Rentrop

Private, Infantry

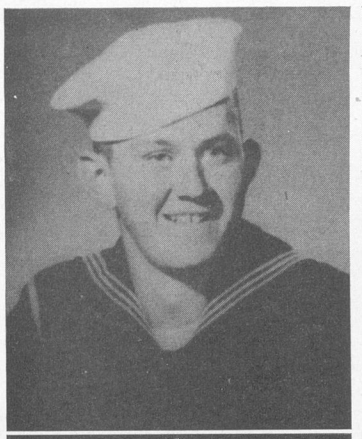
Husband of Gladys Dufrene and father of Judy Patricia, 529 11th St., Lake Charles, La. He was born July 14, 1916, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh A. Rentrop, 2119 Creole St., Lake Charles, La., and is a graduate of Lake Charles High School. Prior to entering the service he was associated with the Railway Express Agency. He was inducted into the service November 25, 1940, at Lake Charles, La., and received training at Camp Blanding, Fla., as rifleman; Savannah Army Air Base, as squad leader; and Camp Bowie, Texas, as security guard. Leaving for England Sept. 25, 1942, he saw duty in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany. He participated in the campaigns of Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes, and Central Europe. After five years of faithful service he was honorably separated from the service August 7, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

② Arlo L. Olson

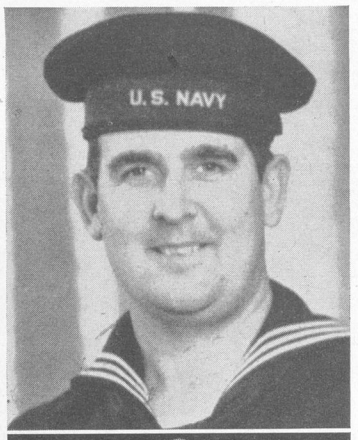
Captain, U. S. Army

Husband of Myra Boudreaux Olson and father of Myra Eileen Olson of Baton Rouge, La. He was born April 20, 1918, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Olson, and attended high school at Toronto, South Dakota. Upon completion he entered the University of South Dakota. In July, 1941, he entered the U. S. Army and received training at Fort Benning, Ga., and Camp Van Dorn, Miss. On June 13, 1943, he was shipped to North Africa where he served as an infantryman through the North African and Italian Campaigns. This gallant soldier gave his life in the defense of his country. The Congressional Medal of Honor was posthumously awarded his wife Sept. 16, 1944. It reads: "Ignoring his severe pain this intrepid officer completed his reconnaissance, supervised the location of his men in the best defensive positions, refused medical aid until all his men had been cared for, and died as he was being carried down the mountain." The Silver Star, for destroying two machine gun nests single-handed, the Purple Heart and The Cross of Military Valor were also posthumously awarded his wife.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



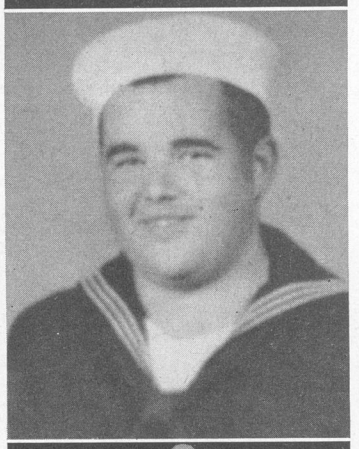
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② Lester B. Glascock

S. SM(B) 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Leona Glascock and the late Van Buren Glascock and husband of Ezell Swetledge Glascock of Walker, La. He was born Sept. 25, 1910, and attended school at Wisner and Winnsboro, La. Glascock entered the service Jan. 7, 1944, at New Orleans, La. He received his basic training at San Diego, Calif. He was then sent to Great Lakes, Ill., and Shoemaker, Calif. On August 14, 1944, he was sent to Milne Bay, New Guinea; served on the coast of New Guinea at Finschhaven, Dreger Bay, Lagadaga, Hollandia, Shouten Islands and Manus in the Admiralties. After one year's faithful service to his country he was discharged at New Orleans, La., on Nov. 27, 1945. He is the father of Peggy Jean, Connie Ruth and Mary Alice Glascock.

③ James H. Wood

MMR 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Wood and husband of Pauline Givens Wood, he was born Oct. 26, 1913, and attended Collins High School, Collins, Miss. Entering the service July 11, 1944, Wood received training at San Diego, Calif., Gulfport, Miss., York, Pa., and Ft. McHenry, Md. He departed July 25, 1945, for sea duty and served off the east coast of Panama, Pearl Harbor, Manus, bringing ammunition and troops back to the west coast. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon, American Theatre Ribbon and Victory Medal. Wood was discharged March 11, 1946, after more than a year's faithful service to his country. He is the father of James H. Wood, Jr.

① Edward Wheeler Milsted, Jr.

SF 3/C, U. S. Navy

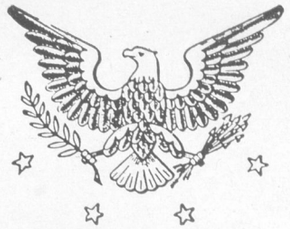
Son of Mr. Edward Wheeler Milsted, Sr., Lake Charles, La., was born May 7, 1927. After attending LaGrange High School, he followed farming before being inducted on April 18, 1945, at New Orleans, La., where he was assigned to the U. S. Navy. He received his training at San Diego, Cal., and Camp Parks, Cal., and on Sept. 10, 1945, he embarked for overseas. He was assigned to duty in Japan and at Guam. He holds the Victory Ribbon, American Theatre of Operations Ribbon and the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon. On August 16, 1946, he received his discharge at New Orleans, La.

④ John Posey Prescott, Jr.

RM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Posey Prescott of Garyville, La., he was born May 29, 1917. Prescott received his A. B. degree from Louisiana State University and prior to his services with the Navy was employed by the U. S. Engineer Dept. in South America. He entered the service Dec. 20, 1943, and was assigned to San Diego, Cal., for training later being sent to Chicago, Ill., for Radar School. He departed Feb. 27, 1945, for overseas and served aboard the USS Horton Sound (AV-11). Prescott participated in the fighting at Okinawa and in the occupation of Japan. He is still in the service with the 7th Fleet.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Herlena Mary Leblanc Dispenza

② Antonina Agnes Dispenza

③ Sam Anthony Dispenza, Jr.

④ Vincent Joseph Dispenza

⑤ Lawrence Thomas Dispenza

⑥ Aladin Broussard Rhymes

⑦ David Earl Lormand

⑧ Louis Joseph Haley

⑨ Robert Marvin Haley

⑩ William Wire Haley

⑪ Albert Morgan Haley

⑫ John Anslem Haley

⑬ Ray Joseph Goudeau

⑭ Al F. Goudeau

⑮ Isobel Tootle Jurecka

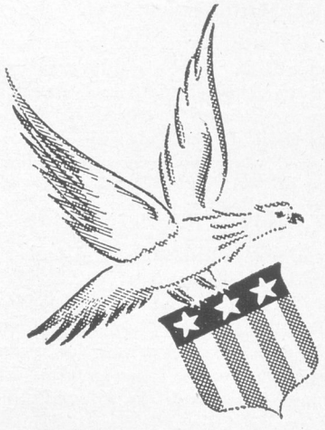
⑯ Albert Jurecka

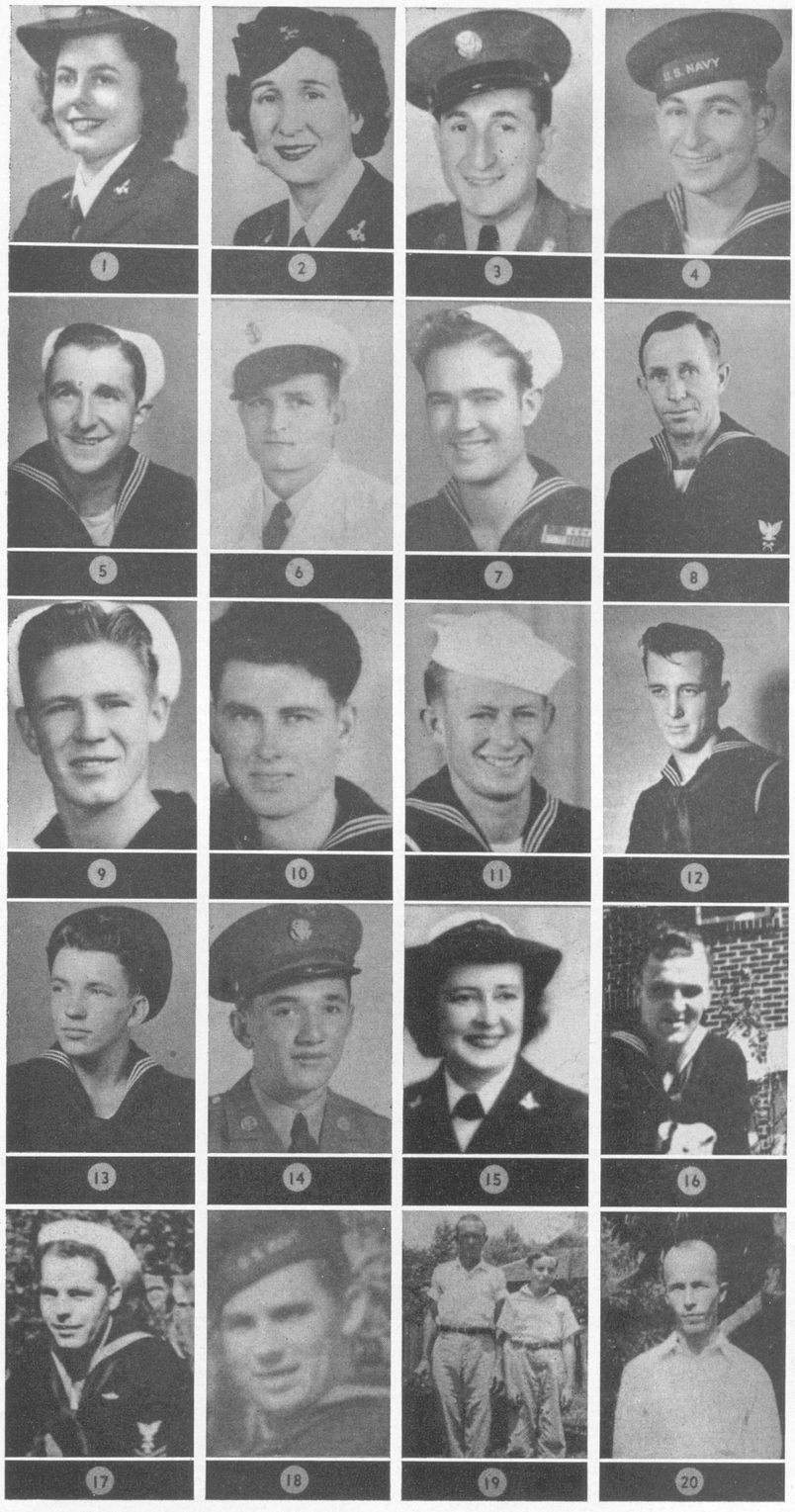
⑰ Kenneth John Thomassie

⑱ Windom Joseph Burton

⑲ Clyde Alec Richardson

⑳ Walter Earl Tootle





The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① HERLENA MARY LEBLANC DISPENZA, Radioman 3/C, WAVES

Wife of Lawrence Thomas Dispenza and mother of Mary Jeannine Dispenza, Baton Rouge, La., was born Aug. 14, 1922. Prior to entering the service she attended Louisiana State Normal, Natchitoches, La. She was inducted into the service May 18, 1943, at New Orleans and from there was sent to the U. S. Naval Training Station, Hunter College, New York. She was then transferred to a Naval Radio School at Oxford, Ohio, and was also stationed at the U.S.N. Submarine Chaser School, Miami, Fla., and the U.S.N.T.S. at Memphis, Tenn. She was honorably discharged Oct. 20, 1945, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clebert LeBlanc, Morganza, La.

② ANTONINA AGNES DISPENZA, WAVES

Antonina Agnes Dispenza, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Dispenza, 1343 Highland Road, Baton Rouge, La., was born Dec. 4, 1919. She attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. Prior to entering the service she was employed by Bologna Brothers as assistant bookkeeper. She was inducted into the service Jan. 24, 1944, at New Orleans, La., and from there sent to the U. S. Naval Training Center, Hunter College, New York. She was later transferred to the Naval Training Center, Milledgeville, Ga., and then to U. S. Naval Repair Base, New Orleans, La. Antonina Agnes Dispenza is still serving her country with the WAVES.

③ SAM ANTHONY DISPENZA, JR., T/5, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Dispenza, Sr., of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Edna Hutchinson Dispenza, he was born Nov. 14, 1915, and attended Baton Rouge and Catholic High Schools and Baton Rouge Business College. Entering the service May 28, 1941, Dispenza was assigned to Camp Wolters, Texas, for training, later being sent to Camp Blanding, Fla., Camp Bowie, Texas, and Camp Edwards, Mass. He departed April 2, 1943, for overseas and participated in the bitter fighting at Salerno, Naples, Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, Rhineland and Central Europe. Dispenza was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Ribbon, Bronze Indian Arrowhead, Infantry Combat Badge and Good Conduct Ribbon. He was discharged Oct. 6, 1946.

④ VINCENT JOSEPH DISPENZA, M 2/C, U. S. Navy

Vincent Joseph Dispenza, husband of Katherine Marie Ancona Dispenza and son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Dispenza, all of Baton Rouge, La., was born February 22, 1924. He attended Baton Rouge High School and Baton Rouge Trade School. On August 25, 1943, he was inducted into the service at New Orleans. While in training he was stationed at Camp Perry, Va.; Camp Endicott, R. I.; Quoddy Village, Maine; Port Hueneme, Cal.; and Treasure Island, Calif. He departed for overseas June, 1944, his first assignment being Pearl Harbor, and also served on Guam and Japan. After more than two years of unselfish service he was honorably discharged Feb. 10, 1946.

⑤ LAWRENCE THOMAS DISPENZA, QM 1/C U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Dispenza and husband of Herlena LeBlanc Dispenza he was born Dec. 14, 1921. Dispenza attended Baton Rouge High School and Business College. Entering the service July 25, 1942, he received training at Algiers, La., St. Augustine, Fla., and Norfolk, Va. He departed Sept., 1944, for overseas and served aboard the USS Woonsocket in the North Atlantic. He is the holder of the European Theatre Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon and American Theatre Ribbon. Dispenza was discharged Oct. 30, 1945.

⑥ ALADIN BROUSSARD RHYMES, CMM, U. S. Navy

Husband of Lillian Rhymes, 425 South Pierce St., Lafayette, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hudson Rhymes of Lafayette. He was born Oct. 20, 1915, and attended Cathedral High School and Southwestern Louisiana Institute. On April 28, 1933, he entered the United States Navy at New Orleans, and was assigned to U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, and has been on sea duty since. On January 3, he embarked for foreign duty in operations in and around the Hawaiian Islands, Wake, Midway, Guam, the Philippines, China, the Panama Canal Zone, Costa Rica, South America, Saipan, Tinian, Iwo Jima, the Gilbert and Marshall Islands, Australia, North Africa, and the South Atlantic. He was in action in the Marianas Islands, Iwo Jima, and the Philippines. He fought enemy subs off Truk (Presidential Citation) and off Bougainville, and has the Chinese Service Medal for the Yangtse Patrol, the American Defense, American Theater, and Asiatic-Pacific Ribbons and Good Conduct Medal.

⑦ DAVID EARL LORMAND, United States Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Hypoleat Lormand, 425 South Pierce Street, Lafayette. He was born August 30, 1923, and attended Kaplan and Morse High Schools. He entered the United States Navy Nov. 13, 1941, at Salt Lake City, Utah, and was assigned to U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif. In January, 1942, he began sea duty aboard the U. S. S. Bridge and carried out supply operations in Hawaii, Samoa, New Caledonia, Tonga Tabu, Fiji, New Zealand, and Bora Bora. Aboard the USS St. Lo CVE 63 he served in Hawaii, the Marshalls, Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Morotai, and the Philippines. He supported the invasion of Saipan, Guam, Tinian, Morotai, Leyte, and the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action against the enemy in mid-November, 1944, near Pearl Harbor.

⑧ LOUIS JOSEPH HALEY, CM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. Wm. W. Haley and Mary Evelyn Fisher of Bunkie, La., and husband of Susie Aline Mitchell Haley he was born Nov. 12, 1910. Haley attended Bolton High School. Entering the service Oct. 16, 1943, he was assigned to Camp Perry, Va., for training. Haley departed June 21, 1944, for overseas and served at Moline Bay, Buna, Aladva, Finschhaven, Hollandia, Sidney, Christmas Island, Guadalcanal, Samoa, Pearl Harbor, Guam, Leyte, Luzon, Okinawa and Honolulu. He was discharged Dec. 23, 1945. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon, American Theatre Ribbon and Victory Medal. Haley is the father of Carl Thomas Haley.

⑨ ROBERT MARVIN HALEY, Mach. Mate 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Annie Wire Haley of Baton Rouge, La., he was born July 23, 1927, and attended Bunkie High School and Istrouma High School after which he entered Baton Rouge Trade School. Entering the service July 18, 1945, Haley was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for training, later being sent to Camp Elliott, Calif. He departed Feb. 10, 1946, for China. He served at various duties in China and Korea, Guam and Saipan.

⑩ WILLIAM WIRE HALEY, PO 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Annie Wire Haley of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Bettie Kelley Haley of Alexandria, La., he was born Nov. 19, 1921. Haley entered the service January 18, 1942, and was assigned to Norfolk, Va., later being sent to Tampa, Fla., Quonset Point, R. I., Camp Allen, Va. He departed March 21, 1942, for overseas where he served at Base Bleacher, Tongatabu, and Efute with a labor battalion and on Guam with a motor repair unit. Haley holds the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Ribbon, Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Nov. 2, 1945. He is the father of Barbara Ann Haley.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



⑪ ALBERT MORGAN HALEY, Radioman 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Annie Wire Haley of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Aug. 12, 1925, and attended Bunkie High School. Entering the service Jan. 21, 1944, he was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for training, later being sent to Oceanside, Cal., and San Bruno, Cal. Haley departed Dec. 16, 1944, for the Pacific where he served on the Admiralty Islands with the supply and ammunition dumps on Manus and ship repair unit at Lombrom Point, Los Negros, Philippine Islands, Manila and Luzon. He served in Yokohoma and Tokyo, Japan, with the U. S. Navy Communication Unit. Haley holds the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, American Defense Ribbon and Victory Medal. He was discharged Feb. 1, 1946.

⑫ JOHN ANSLEM HALEY, Mach. Mate, 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. William W. Haley of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Dec. 8, 1923. He is the husband of Helen Georgia Haley. Entering the service Dec. 29, 1941, Haley was assigned to the U.S.N.O.B. Training Station, Norfolk, Va. Later he was sent to Portsmouth, N. H. Haley departed Nov. 16, 1942, for overseas where he served aboard the USS Guard Fish (Flag CSD 82), USS Tuna (SS203), submarine repair unit, Navy No. 134 USS Nautilus (Flag), USS Odax (SS 484). Haley is the holder of the Asiatic Pacific Theatre Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Battle of East Philippines, American Theatre Ribbon, Victory Medal and Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged Oct. 11, 1945.

⑬ RAY JOSEPH GOUDEAU, Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Lydia Guillory Goudeau of Lafayette, La., he was born July 14, 1926, and attended Cathedral High School. Entering the U. S. Navy July 7, 1944, Goudeau was assigned to Camp Peary, Va., for training. He later served at Ft. Pierce, Fla., Brooklyn, N. Y., Treasure Island, Calif., and New Orleans, La. He departed Jan. 2, 1945, for the South Pacific and participated in the bitter fighting in the invasion of Okinawa. He was discharged March 29, 1946.

⑭ AL F. GOUDEAU, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Lydia G. Goudeau of Lafayette, La., and husband of Marcia Marinoni Goudeau of Brussels, Belgium, he was born July 13, 1922. Goudeau attended St. Edmund's High School and Eunice High School. Entering the service Jan. 7, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Livingston, La., later serving at Camp Carrabelle, Fla., Ft. Riley, Kan., and Camp Swift, Texas. He departed Nov. 22, 1943, for overseas and participated in the fighting of the Central Europe, Rhineland, Northern France and Normandy Campaigns. He was awarded the Enropean-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Ribbon with the Bronze Star. After more than 4 years of meritorious service for his country, he was discharged Jan. 17, 1946.

⑮ ISOBEL TOOTLE JURECKA, P.R.T.R. (M) 3/C, U. S. Navy (WAVES)

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Richardson and wife of Albert Jurecka she was born May 5, 1910, and attended Gonzales High School. Prior to her enlistment in the service Mrs. Jurecka was employed by the Standard Oil Company of Louisiana. She entered the service July 23, 1944, at New Orleans, La., and received training at Hunter College, N. Y. She was then assigned to N.A.S. at Corpus Christi, Texas. Mrs. Jurecka was discharged Nov. 2, 1945.

⑯ ALBERT JURECKA, BM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Jurecka of Robstown, Texas, and husband of Isobel Jurecka he was born July 14, 1908, and attended Robstown High School. Entering the U. S. Navy Sept. 22, 1943, at Galveston, Texas, Jurecka was assigned to the Naval Air Station at Corpus Christi, Texas. He was then sent to the Naval Station at San Diego, Calif. Jurecka also served at Coronado Heights, Calif., and New Orleans, La. He was honorably discharged Nov. 9, 1945, at New Orleans, La.

⑰ KENNETH JOHN THOMASSIE, WT 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Justy Louis Thomassie and husband of Dorothy Richardson Thomassie he was born March 23, 1914 and attended Gonzales High School. Entering the service Nov. 13, 1934, he has served at Norfolk, Va., Puget Sound Navy Yard, aboard the USS Kewaydin, USS J. Fred Talbott, USS Zaurak and USS Serapis. He departed May 4, 1944, for the Pacific and participated in the fighting from Saipan to Jima Islands. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two stars, Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two stars, Good Conduct Medal and American Theatre Ribbon. He was discharged Nov. 17, 1945. Thomassie is the father of Tanya Annett, Barbara Elizabeth, and Peggy Oneil Thomassie.

⑱ WINDOM JOSEPH BURTON, Aviation Metalsmith 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. George Burton of Gonzales, La., and husband of Betty Richardson Burton of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Feb. 12, 1921, and attended St. Amant School. Entering the service Aug. 30, 1941, Burton was assigned to Norfolk, Va., for training, later being sent to Jacksonville, Fla., San Diego, Calif., Seattle, Wash., and Bremerton, Wash. He departed Nov. 1, 1943, for overseas and participated in the bitter fighting of the Marshall and Gilbert Islands, Hollandia Invasion, Saipan, Guam, 1st and 2nd battles of the Philippine Sea, China Sea, Formosa, Iwo Jima, Honshu, Kyushu and Okinawa. After more than 4 years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged Sept. 26, 1945.

⑲ CLYDE ALEC RICHARDSON, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry A. Richardson of Gonzales, La. He was born March 29, 1914, and attended the St. Amant School in Gonzales. Clyde is the husband of Leona Savoy Richardson. He entered the U. S. Navy July 23, 1944. (N.M.I.A.)

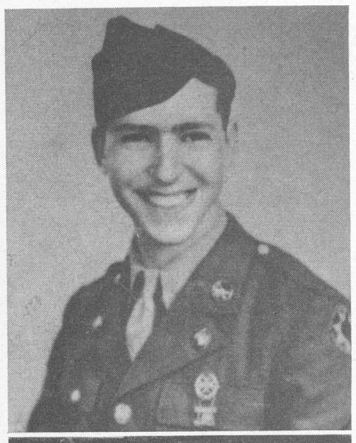
⑳ WALTER EARL TOOTLE, U. S. Merchant Marines

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Elijah Tootle and husband of Isobel Richardson Tootle of Gonzales, La., he was born Feb. 25, 1908. Tootle attended high school in Tucson, Ariz. He entered the Merchant Marines Jan. 4, 1941, at Baton Rouge, La., and was assigned to the "W. L. Steed" Standard Oil Company Tanker. His ship was torpedoed Feb. 2, 1941, off the east coast by a German submarine. This gallant citizen lost his life while serving his country.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① James Leland Self

Merchant Marines and Army

Son of James Hudson and Ora Lee Self of Lake Charles, La. He was born June 25, 1927, and is a graduate of the LaGrange High School. Before entering the Merchant Marines Nov. 15, 1944, he was a Civil Service employee for the LCAAF. While in the Merchant Marines he trained at the U. S. Maritime Training Base, St. Petersburg, Fla. James entered the U. S. Army Oct. 29, 1945, and received his basic training at Sheppard Field, later being sent to Langley Field for overseas shipment. He served overseas in the capacity of hauling cargo to or from England, Saipan, and the Marianas. He enlisted in the regular Army May 30, 1946, for Occupational Service.

② Sammie H. Brown

M/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brown of Baton Rouge, La. He was born Sept. 23, 1918, and attended Winnsboro High School and Louisiana State University. Prior to entering the armed forces, he was employed as a salesman. Oct. 22, 1943, he entered the U. S. Army and was stationed at Fort Worden and Fort Casey, Wash., as Artilleryman. Departing Feb. 10, 1945, for Hawaii, he served in Hawaii, Ie Shima, Okinawa, and Korea and participated in the Ryukyus Campaign. He was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with one Bronze Star, the Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Ribbon, and the Victory Ribbon. After completing 13 months service overseas, he received his discharge March 6, 1946, at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Brown is the husband of Melba Cruvant Brown and father of Sharon Hope Brown.

③ James Benard Robin

Sergeant, Infantry

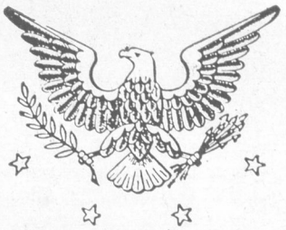
Grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Meaux of Vinton. He was born Aug. 11, 1923, and attended Vinton High School. He was engaged in farming prior to entering the U. S. Army in the Infantry on Sept. 28, 1943, at Sulphur. Sergeant Robin served at Camp Fannin, Texas, Infantry Replacement Training Center, and Fort George G. Meade, Md., Overseas Replacement Depot, embarking from Camp Shanks, N. Y., for the European Theater of Operations on March 22, 1944. He served as assistant squad leader with infantry units in France, Belgium, and Germany and was in combat in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with five bronze Campaign Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation (for river crossing) with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Purple Heart, twice awarded for wounds received in combat at Eilendorf and Rudersfort in Germany on Sept. 25, 1944, and Aug. 27, 1945. Granted his honorable discharge at Lohr, Germany, on Oct. 28, 1945, he re-enlisted for a period of three years and was continuing to serve with the Army of Occupation in the European Theater.

④ Russell R. Willie

T/5, U. S. Army

Son of Robert A. Willie of Greensburg, La., was born July 16, 1917, and attended the Livingston Grammar and Doyle High Schools. Feb. 3, 1942, he entered the armed forces and was sent to Camp Polk, La. He was later stationed at Camp Coxcomb, Calif., Fort Benning, Ga., Camp Myles Standish, Mass., and Camp Shanks, New York. Departing June 6, 1944, for the European Theater he served in Scotland, England, France, Germany, Poland, Russia, and Italy. He participated in the battles of Normandy, the Rhineland, and Central Europe and was awarded the European Theater of Operations Ribbon and the Good Conduct Medal. Russell also received the Purple Heart April 1, 1945, at Naples, Italy, and was a Prisoner of War in Limburg and Krustin, Germany. He received an honorable discharge Oct. 20, 1945, at Camp Stewart, Ga.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Mary Viola Jordan King

② Stanley V. King

③ Hugh King

④ Shyrl Lee King

⑤ Robert Madison Nickles

⑥ Auttah Andrew Nickles, Jr.

⑦ Edward James Crouch

⑧ Sam J. Crouch, Jr.

⑨ Philip Benton McGehee

⑩ Kennith B. McGehee

⑪ Inman J. Allen

⑫ Earnest Elliot Phillips

⑬ Noble Edward Cooke

⑭ Chester Robert Cooke

⑮ Lawrence Elmer Cooke

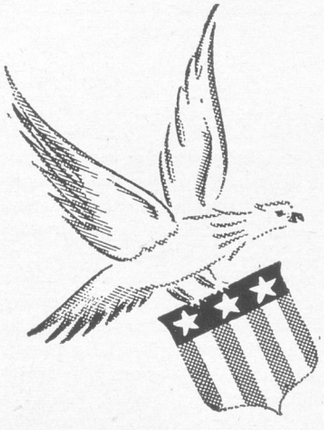
⑯ William Arthur Cooke

⑰ Thomas Cooke

⑱ Joseph John Burton

⑲ Joseph John Ronkartz

⑳ John W. Ronkartz





① MARY VIOLA JORDAN KING, Ph.M. 3/C, WAVES

Mary Viola Jordan King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Jordan, Cambridge City, Indiana, was born Feb. 17, 1924. Before entering the service she was a doctor's assistant. She was inducted into the service March 20, 1944, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and attended Boot Camp at Hunter College. She served hospital ward duty and dispensary duty at U. S. N. Hospital St. Albans, Long Island, N. Y., and the N. A. S., Pensacola, Fla. After more than a year of unselfish service she was honorably discharged Nov. 7, 1945.

② STANLEY V. KING, Ph.M 2/C, U. S. Navy

Stanley V. King was born Sept. 15, 1920, and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. King, Pine Grove, La., and husband of Mrs. Mary V. King, Clinton, La. He attended Pine Grove High School and followed the business of farming before entering the service July 3, 1942, at New Orleans, La. He was assigned to the U. S. Navy Reserve and received his boot training at San Diego, Calif. On Nov. 5, 1942, he embarked for Pearl Harbor and was given assignments as ambulance driver, dental technician and ward duty in the hospitals. He served his country loyally for more than three years and received his discharge at Pensacola, Fla., on Dec. 1, 1945.

③ HUGH KING, GM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James A. King of Pine Grove, La., was born Oct. 3, 1922, and attended Pine Grove High School. He was inducted on Jan. 19, 1942, at New Orleans, La., and assigned to the U. S. Coast Guard. After completing his training in the States he sailed on March 21, 1944, on board a troop transport carrying troops to or from England, France, Italy, Morocco, Egypt, India, Brazil, Panama, Porto Rico, Hawaii, Leyte, Wake and Japan. He served his country loyally and unselfishly for more than four years and on March 1, 1946, received his discharge at New Orleans, La.

④ SHYRL LEE KING, T/4, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. James A. King of Pine Grove, La., was born Dec. 9, 1918, and attended Pine Grove High School prior to entering the service on Nov. 8, 1940, at Ft. McPherson, Ga., where he was assigned to the signal corps. Upon completing his training he sailed for overseas on July 7, 1943, serving in North Africa, Italy and Germany. He saw action in the campaigns for Rome-Arno, North Apennines and the Po Valley and holds the Good Conduct Medal, American Theater of Operations Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Medal. He received his discharge Sept. 23, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑤ ROBERT MADISON NICKLES, 1/S.C., U. S. Naval Reserve

Robert Madison Nickles, husband of Lucile Mars Nickles of Corinth, Miss., was born May 25, 1926. He was inducted into military service May 5, 1944, at Memphis, Tenn. He received his Naval training at Camp Perry, Va. He embarked for overseas service on Aug. 24, 1944. He was sent to Europe and later transferred to another ship to bring back to the United States. He received an honorable discharge at New Orleans, La. Robert Nickles is the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Nickles, Greensburg, La.

⑥ AUTTAH ANDREW NICKLES, JR., 1/S.C., U. S. Navy

Auttah Andrew Nickles, Jr., husband of Barby Jean Nickles, 1177 Forest Avenue, Memphis, Tenn., and father of Billy Jene Nickles. Seaman Nickles was born March 3, 1928. He was inducted into the service Nov. 20, 1945, at Nashville, Tenn. Having given unselfishly his service to his country, Nickles is still serving with the United States Navy. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Auttah Andrew Nickles, Sr., of Greensburg, La.

⑦ EDWARD JAMES CROUCH, Cpl., U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Sam J. Crouch of Montpelier, La., and husband of Vesta Bernice Crouch of Birmingham, Ala., he was born Nov. 25, 1921. Crouch attended Pisgah High School at Sandhill, Miss. Entering the service March 13, 1942, he was assigned to Camp Linda Vista, Calif., later being sent to Quantico, Va. He departed June 17, 1942, for overseas and participated in the bitter fighting of the Marshall Islands and Guam. Cpl. Crouch was awarded a Navy Unit Citation and Good Conduct Medal. He was hospitalized for two months at Pearl Harbor for wounds received on Guam in hand to hand combat with a Japanese officer. Cpl. Crouch received the Purple Heart July 27, 1944. After three years of meritorious service he was discharged March 19, 1946. He is the father of Caral Bernice.

⑧ SAM J. CROUCH, JR., Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam J. Crouch of Montpelier, La., he was born Feb. 9, 1926, and attended Pine Grove High School. Entering the service April 24, 1944, Crouch was assigned to Camp Hood, Texas, for training, later being sent to Camp Van Dorn, Miss. He departed Nov. 25, 1944, for France as a Rifleman with the 254th Infantry Regiment of the 63rd Infantry Division. He participated in the bitter fighting of the Rhineland and Central Europe. Sgt. Crouch was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Unit Citation Badge with one Cluster, the Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. He received the Purple Heart Feb. 2, 1945, near Colmar, France. After two years of meritorious service for his country he was discharged April 12, 1946.

⑨ PHILIP BENTON McGEHEE, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. McGehee of Greensburg, La. He was born June 8, 1918, and attended the Greensburg High School and the Pine Grove Grammar School. He entered the armed forces June 8, 1941. (N. M. I. A.)

⑩ KENNITH B. McGEHEE, Coast Guard

Son of Mr. and Mrs. McGehee of Greensburg, La. He was born Dec. 29, 1921, and attended the Pine Grove Grammar School and the Greensburg High School. He worked as a farmer and also a clerk before entering the armed forces. Kenneth entered the Coast Guard in July, 1942. (N. M. I. A.)

⑪ INMAN J. ALLEN, Tec/5, Armor, AUS

Son of Mrs. Mamie W. Allen of Greensburg. He was born Feb. 20, 1916, and attended Oakland High School. He was engaged in farming at the time of his induction in the Army of the United States January 3, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He served with the Armored Force at Camp Polk, Camp Pickett, Va., Indiantown Gap, Pa., and Camp Kilmer, N. J., going to England Sept. 8, 1943, to serve as a tank gunner and radio operator in France, Belgium, and Germany. He fought in the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, and the Ardennes and has the Purple Heart for wounds received on January 3, 1945, in Belgium. He was granted his honorable discharge (disability) at Brooke General Hospital, Texas, on April 8, 1946, after more than three years of gallant service with the Armored Force.

⑫ EARNEST ELLIOT PHILLIPS, PFC, Infantry, MC, AUS

Husband of Betty Jo Phillips of DeQuincy and father of Earnest Elliot Phillips, Jr. He was born Feb. 18, 1920, the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Phillips of DeQuincy, and attended DeQuincy High School. He was an employee of Missouri Pacific Railroad prior to his induction in the Army of the United States on November 26, 1942, at Lafayette. From Camp Beauregard he went to Camp Livingston as a basic trainee and joined the 115th General Hospital at Camp Ellis, Ill., in April, 1944. He shipped to England the following July and left England for Kassel, Germany, in June, 1945. He served at Harrogate, England, and at Kassel with the same unit, the 115th General Hospital, embarking for the States in Jan. 1946. He has the American Theater of Operations Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and World War II Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged January 29, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

⑬ NOBLE EDWARD COOKE, Tec/5, C of E, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Noble Cooke of Iowa. He was born September 5, 1912, and attended Iowa and Southwest Louisiana Trades Schools (machinist). Entering the Army May 14, 1942, he served at Camp Beauregard, Camp Claiborne, and Fort Dix, N. J., with the Corps of Engineers, embarking July 1, 1942, for Europe where he served in England, North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France, Germany, and Austria. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Algeria, French Morocco, Tunisia, Sicily, Naples-Foggia, Rome-Arno, Southern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe and has the Good Conduct Medal, EAMETO Ribbon with nine bronze Campaign Stars, Bronze Arrowhead, and War Department Citation Ribbon. He was discharged Sept. 25, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑭ CHESTER ROBERT COOKE, Cpl., Infantry, AUS

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Noble Cooke of Iowa. He was born Sept. 26, 1919, and attended Iowa High School. Entering the Army on Feb. 13, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, he served at Camp Shelby, Miss., and Fort Ord, Cal., embarking Oct. 1, 1942, for the Asiatic-Pacific Theater where he served in New Zealand, New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, New Georgia, Aitape (New Guinea) and the Philippines (Luzon). He was in combat off Guadalcanal, the Northern Solomons (New Georgia), Aitape and Luzon, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon (four campaign stars), Bronze Invasion Arrowhead, Purple Heart, Combat Infantry Badge, Good Conduct Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon (two stars). Returning after 31 months overseas, he was discharged at Brooke Convalescent Hospital Sept. 27, 1945.

⑮ LAWRENCE ELMER COOKE, Sergeant, Air Forces

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Noble Cooke of Iowa. He was born August 12, 1917, and attended Iowa High School. He was with Swift and Armour prior to entering the Army Air Forces Jan. 27, 1942, at Dodd Field, San Antonio. He served at Sheppard Field, Texas, Will Rogers Field, Okla., Kansas City, Mo., and Oklahoma City Air Depot. On July 24, 1943, he embarked for England where he served in aircraft repair at Ipswich, Zeals and Chilebolten, and at Caen, Rennes, LeMans, Paris, and St. Dizier in France. He served in the Campaigns of Northern France and Central Europe and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. He was honorably discharged October 1, 1945, at Ellington Field, Texas.

⑯ WILLIAM ARTHUR COOKE, Tec/5, CE, Army of U. S.

Son of Samuel Noble and Mary Etta Melendy Cooke of Iowa. He was born June 19, 1925, and attended Iowa High School. Entering the Army Sept. 21, 1943, at Lafayette, he served with the Coast Artillery Corps (Anti-Aircraft Artillery) at Camp Callan and Camp Stoneman, Calif., going to Finschafen, British New Guinea, March 31, 1944, to serve at White Beach, San Fabian, San Fernando, La Union, Manila and Santa Ana as a heavy equipment operator with the Corps of Engineers. He was in combat in the Campaigns of New Guinea, the Southern Philippines, and Luzon and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two Bronze Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with Star, the Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was honorably discharged Feb. 1, 1946, at Camp Fannin.

⑰ THOMAS COOKE, PFC, CE, AUS

Son of Mary Etta Melendy Cooke and Samuel Noble Cooke, Iowa. He was born Feb. 17, 1922, and attended Iowa High School. Entering the Army December 16, 1942, in the Corps of Engineers (Combat), he served at Camp Carson, Colo., Camp Polk, La. (for maneuvers), and Camp Patrick Henry, Va., going to Oran, Algeria, and Casablanca, then to England for combat staging. Landing in Normandy on D-Day, June 6, 1944, he fought through the Campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Germany, then served with the Engineers in France. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with five bronze Campaign Stars, Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished Unit Citation Badge, and Victory Medal and was discharged Dec. 6, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑱ JOSEPH JOHN BURTON, T/Sgt., Infantry

Husband of Josephine Marie and father of Charles Donhue, Route 1, Crowley, La. He was born July 15, 1917, son of Mr. and Mrs. Hebert Donhue Burton, Route 2, Iota, La., and is a graduate of Iota High School. He entered service Oct. 7, 1942, and received training at Fort McClellan, Ala., Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Meade, Maryland. He sailed for England March 22, 1943, and later saw duty in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany as a combat Infantryman. He participated in five major campaigns and is decorated with the Silver Star. He was wounded at St. Lo and at Huertgen Forest for which he wears the Purple Heart with cluster. His service in the Army came to an end Sept. 26, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss., where he was honorably discharged.

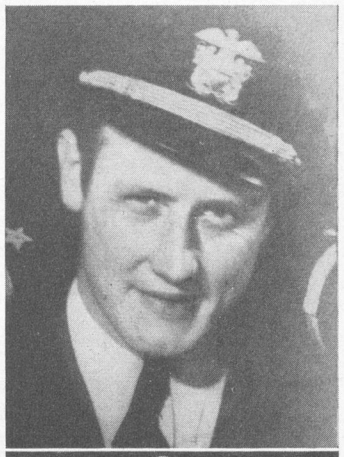
⑲ JOSEPH JOHN RONKARTZ, PFC, Field Artillery

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lambert Ronkartz, Box 206, Route 1, Crowley, La. He was born June 26, 1922, and is graduated from St. Michael's High School. He worked as a farmer prior to his service with the Army. He entered service Dec. 18, 1942, at Lafayette, La., and received training at Camp Maxey, Texas, and participated in the Louisiana maneuvers. He sailed from the United States Feb. 10, 1944, and later saw duty in England, France, Germany, and Austria with duties of a communications man. He participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe, for which he earned four battle stars on his European Theater Ribbon. He was discharged Nov. 21, 1945, at Glennan General Hospital, Oklahoma.

⑳ JOHN W. RONKARTZ, Electrician's Mate 3/C, Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Lampert Ronkartz, Route 1, Crowley, La. He was born Feb. 12, 1925, and attended St. Michael's High School and Southwestern Louisiana Trade School. He entered service Feb. 26, 1944, and received boot training at San Diego, Calif. After short assignments at Seattle, Wash., and Brooklyn, N. Y., he drew duty at sea April, 1944. His ports of call included Pearl Harbor, Marshall Islands, Mariannas, Gilberts, Admiraltys, Philippines, Japan, and China. He experienced seven bombardments and one sea battle. He is the wearer of the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action. His service with the Navy terminated May 15, 1946, with an honorable discharge, at New Orleans, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



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① Eugene Norman Fabares

U. S. Navy

Son of Lillian O. and Joseph N. Fabares of Bogalusa, La. He was born May 5, 1913, and attended the Bogalusa Grammar School, Ferrell's Military College, New Orleans, La., and Stonewall Jackson High School, Houston, Texas. In July, 1940, he entered the U. S. Navy at New York. He served outside the United States in duty on ships in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean. He served on the Destroyer U.S.S. Prairie in the Atlantic Ocean, and on the U.S.S. Lackawana in the South Pacific, where he was in active duty. Fabares is now serving as a Commander stationed in San Francisco, Calif.

② John Burke Hammatt

Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Hammatt and husband of Kathryn R. Hammatt of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Sept. 26, 1920. Hammatt attended Catholic High School and Louisiana State University. Entering the service Oct. 20, 1942, he was assigned to Kelly Field, Texas, Ellington Field, Texas, Big Spring Army Air Base, Texas, and Clovis, N. M. Lt. Hammatt departed Jan. 29, 1944, for Italy and flew twelve missions over Germany. He was killed in action and the Purple Heart was posthumously awarded his widow, Mrs. Kathryn Hammatt. He was the father of Edith May and John Burke Hammatt.

③ Doyle Edward Stockstill

U. S. Army

Son of Verlie and Morgan Stockstill of Marrero, La. He was born Dec. 18, 1919, and attended public schools in Bogalusa, La. Prior to entering the armed forces, he worked at Delta Shipyard as a burner. Feb. 24, 1944, he entered the U. S. Army at Bogalusa and was later sent to Camp Fannin, Tyler, Texas. Departing in August, 1944, for the European Theater he served in Italy, France, Germany, and Luxembourg, participating in the battles and campaigns there. Stockstill was awarded the Purple Heart, Silver Star, two Presidential Citations, and the Croix de Guerre. This gallant soldier gave his life in the service of his country.

④ William Scott Smith

Lieutenant, U. S. Army

Son of Louise Nicholas Smith and the late Donard John Smith of Baton Rouge, La. He was born Sept. 24, 1924, and attended Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. April 6, 1943, he entered the armed forces and was sent to Fort Knox, Ky., where he served as Platoon Sgt. He was later sent to Louisiana State University as ROTC Instructor, Fort Benning, Ga., for O. C. S., and Camp Shelby, Miss., as Platoon Leader. Departing Jan. 11, 1945, for the European Theater he served at France, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia as Platoon Leader, Co. Commander, Battalion S-3, Intelligence Officer G-2 USFA. He participated in the campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe and was awarded the Bronze Star, Presidential Unit Citation, and the Combat Infantry Badge. William is the husband of Yvonne Roumain Smith of Baton Rouge, La.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① Julien M. LeBlanc

② Elton James Braud

③ Hewitt Pierre LeBlanc

④ Ruben Feliciano

⑤ Vance Birkett Tebbetts

⑥ Beryl C. Tebbetts

⑦ Donald Keller Tebbetts

⑧ Victor Angona

⑨ Royal L. Calcagno

⑩ Steve G. Calcagno

⑪ Frank B. Calcagno

⑫ Alvin Joseph Brignac

⑬ Wilbert Chauvin

⑭ John Gordon Chauvin

⑮ Eddie Eli Lobell

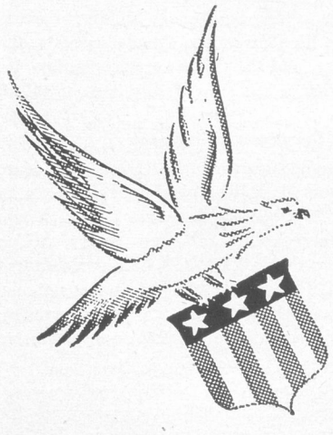
⑯ Phillip Arthur Lobell

⑰ Willard Joseph Hymel

⑱ Clifford A. Hymel

⑲ Russell Joseph Hymel

⑳ Anthony D'Amico





① JULIEN M. LeBLANC, Captain, Air Forces

Husband of Catherine M. LeBlanc, 1717 Madison Ave., Shreveport, and father of Ralph D. LeBlanc. He was born Nov. 11, 1921, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hendrick J. LeBlanc of Duplessis, and attended Gonzales High School and Norton Business College, Shreveport. He was a student prior to entering the Army Air Forces July 3, 1940, and served at Barksdale Field and Columbus, Miss., prior to attending AAF Officer Candidate School, Miami Beach, Fla. He served at McClellan Field, Cal., Brainerd Field, E. Hartford, Conn., FAFRD at Hammer Field, Cal., Hamilton Field, Cal., AAFSAT at Orlando, Fla., Santa Rosa AAF and Sacramento Municipal Airport, Cal., as squadron adjutant. On Dec. 14, 1943, he went to England as squadron adjutant and executive and was in combat in the Air Offensive over Europe, Normandy, Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe. Captain LeBlanc has the Good Conduct and American Defense Service Ribbons, the EAMETO Ribbon with six bronze stars, the American Theater and Victory Ribbon and Belgian Fourragere.

② ELTON JAMES BRAUD, Fireman 2/C, USNR

Husband of Viola M. Braud of Duplessis and father of Harry R. Braud and Audrey T. Braud. He was born Sept. 25, 1917, and is the son of Frank and Nezida Babin Braud of Duplessis. Entering the United States Naval Reserve on May 29, 1945, at the New Orleans Recruiting Station, he went to the U. S. Naval Training Station at San Diego, Cal., and served in San Diego throughout his period of military duty with the United States Naval Reserve. He was granted his honorable discharge at the U. S. Naval Air Station Distribution Center at New Orleans on April 20, 1946.

③ HEWITT PIERRE LeBLANC, ACMM, United States Navy

Husband of Genevieve Theresa LeBlanc, 2021 Carrie St., Shreveport, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Hendrick J. LeBlanc of Duplessis. Born Jan. 31, 1924, he attended Gonzales High School prior to entering the Navy, then the U. S. Naval Training Station, Aviation Machinist School, San Diego, and Aviation Aerial Gunnery School, NAS, Kaneohe Bay, Territory of Hawaii. Inducted May 23, 1941, he served at the Naval Air Stations at San Diego and Alameda and the Naval Air Training Base, Pensacola, Fla. On December 13, 1941, he went to Honolulu where he served with the famed Black Cats Patrol Squadron 12 at Midway, Fiji, Espiritu Santo and the New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, to June 29, 1943, as combat aircrewman and engineer. His major campaigns include Midway, Savo Island, Guadalcanal, the Russells, Munda Air Base, and Bougainville. He has the Presidential Unit Commendation for outstanding performance of duty Dec. 10, 1942, to March 10, 1943, and reenlisted as Aviation Chief Machinist Mate.

④ RUBEN FELICIANO, T/4, Medical Corps

Husband of Widmer Coats, 1040 Second St., Morgan City, La. He was born May 20, 1918, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jose Feliciano, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, and attended Louisiana State University, University of Puerto Rico, and Temple University. He entered service Sept. 23, 1942, and received his basic training at Camp Grant, Ill. He later served at Lawson General Hospital and Stark General Hospital prior to departing for England Dec. 24, 1944. He served in England with the 59th Hospital Train as medical technician. His faithful term of service came to an end January 10, 1946, at Ft. Meade, Maryland, when he received his honorable discharge.

⑤ VANCE BIRKETT TEBBETTS, Tec/Sgt., Signal Corps, AUS

Husband of Estelle Olivia Tebbetts, 617 Center Street, New Iberia, and father of Sharon Tebbetts. He was born December 16, 1907, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Chapman Tebbetts, and attended school in Carlsbad, N. M., being an electrician in civilian life. Entering the Army Dec. 4, 1942, at Ruston, he trained at Camp Maxey, Texas, embarking for the European Theater Dec. 29, 1943, with the 92nd Signal Battalion. He served as line foreman supervising a crew of 35 men in establishing communications for X, XV, and II Corps in North Ireland, Scotland, England, France, Alsace-Lorraine, Germany, and Austria. Technical Sergeant Tebbetts was in combat in Normandy, Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe and has the Bronze Star Medal, the American Theater Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Ribbon with four stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the Victory Medal. He entered the Enlisted Reserve Corps Nov. 25, 1945, at Camp Shelby.

⑥ BERYL C. TEBBETTS, Lieutenant, U. S. Navy

Husband of Elizabeth Hays Tebbetts of Ruston and son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence C. Tebbetts, 617 Center St., New Iberia. He was born June 27, 1914, and attended Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston. He was a salesman for Pelican Well Tool and Supply Co., Shreveport, prior to his induction in the United States Navy in Sept., 1942, at New Orleans. After indoctrination at Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H., he went to the Naval Air Station at Quonset Point, R. I., for Aerological Training and to the University of Chicago, Aerological Engineering School. He served with Navy Weather Central, San Francisco, Cal., as Aerological Officer. Embarking for the Southwest Pacific Aug. 2, 1944, Lieutenant Tebbetts served with Acorn Nineteen as Aerological Officer at the Naval Air Station, Sangley Point, Luzon, Philippine Islands. He has the American Defense Service Ribbon, the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one star, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged Dec. 1, 1945, at New Orleans.

⑦ DONALD KELLER TEBBETTS, Seaman 1/C, USNCB

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Chapman Tebbetts, 617 Center St., New Iberia. He was born March 12, 1922, and attended Winnfield High School and Huey P. Long Trades School, Winnfield. He was an electrician prior to entering the United States Naval Construction Battalions (Seabees) on Oct. 24, 1942, at New Orleans. From the U. S. Naval Construction Training Center at Davisville, R. I., he served with the 52nd Naval Construction Battalion at Camp Holladay, Gulfport, Miss., Camp Rousseau, Port Hueneme, Cal., and the Seabees Receiving Depot at Camp Parks, Cal. On Feb. 12, 1943, he embarked for the Aleutians where he served at Dutch Harbor, Great Sitka Island, and Adak. He served with Commander Service Pacific in the 43rd NCB at Pearl Harbor and Maui, Hawaii, Saipan in the Marianas, and Nagasaki, Japan, in the construction of tank farms and other work. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the Occupation of Japan Ribbon when authorized, and was honorably discharged Jan. 21, 1946.

⑧ VICTOR ANGONA, Corporal, Armored Force

Husband of Mary Rockforte Angona of Melville and father of Anthony Joseph and Rosemary Angona. He was born March 19, 1919, and attended Melville High School. He was engaged in farming prior to his induction Nov. 27, 1942, in the Army at Opelousas. He served with the 7th Armored Division at Camp Polk, at the California Desert Training Center, at Ft. Benning, Ga., and Camp Shanks, N. Y., He embarked on D-Day, June 6, 1944, for Scotland and served in England, Belgium, France, Holland, and Germany. He was in combat in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Ardennes, the Rhineland, and Central Europe and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with four bronze Campaign Stars, the Presidential Unit Citation Badge, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Shelby, Oct. 19, 1945.

⑨ ROYAL L. CALCAGNO, Sergeant, Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Calcagno, Gramercy, La. He is a graduate of Lutcher High School and worked at the Colonial Sugar Refinery prior to his entry into service. He joined the Army Dec. 27, 1941, and received training at Camp Beauregard, La.; Camp Shelby, Miss.; Miami Beach, Fla.; and Keesler Field, Miss. His duties constituted the repair of grounded aircraft. These same duties were assigned to him during his tour of duty in the Far East where he served in South Africa, China, India, and Burma. He was continuing to serve with the Army Air Forces.

⑩ STEVE G. CALCAGNO, Private, Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Calcagno, Gramercy, Louisiana. He is a graduate of Lutcher High School and worked with the Delta Ship-

yard prior to his entrance in the Army. He entered service Oct. 12, 1942, at New Orleans, La., and received basic training at Camp Beauregard, La. Other assignments included stations at Camp Plauche, and Camp Shelby where he performed duties instructing and repairing weapons. He sailed for Panama Nov. 16, 1942, and took up the same duties at this post until his discharge July 14, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss.

⑪ FRANK B. CALCAGNO, Seaman 2/C, Navy SeeBees

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Calcagno, Gramercy, La. He is a graduate of the Gramercy School and was employed in various occupations prior to his induction into service. He joined the Navy November 28, 1944, at New Orleans, La., and received training at Camp Endicott, Rhode Island. Other duties were performed at the Navy Base in San Diego, Cal. He departed for the Pacific Theater April 25, 1945, and was stationed on Okinawa where he continued to discharge his duties as repair and construction man. He was continuing to serve in the Pacific theater.

⑫ ALVIN JOSEPH BRIGNAC, Coxswain, Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Garbel Brignac, Gramercy, La. He was born Oct. 18, 1925, and is a graduate of Lutcher High School. Prior to his service with the Navy he worked as an attendant in a filling station. He entered service Dec. 18, 1942, and received training at Naval Training Station, San Diego, Cal. He was assigned to the U.S.S. Aludra (AK72)) and saw duty in the South Pacific at Guadalcanal, New Britain, and other Pacific islands. This ship was sunk in an air raid in June, 1943. A short return to the States, and then a new assignment to the U.S.S. Providence took him to Italy, France, Sicily, and Greece. His tour of duty ended Feb. 15, 1946, with an honorable discharge at New Orleans, La.

⑬ WILBERT CHAUVIN, Coast Artillery

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Louis Chauvin of Paulina. Born June 7, 1919, he attended Lutcher High School and worked for two years in a Civilian Conservation Camp, then was with Colonial Sugars in Gramercy. On Feb. 17, 1941, he entered the Coast Artillery Corps at Fort Barrancas, Fla., and served at Fort Barrancas, at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, and at Fort Monroe, Va. On Jan. 24, 1942, he went to the Pacific Area, on the Society Islands. He served on Bora Bora, Guadalcanal, in the British Solomon Islands, the New Hebrides Islands, and the Russell Group. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Defense Service Ribbon, and the Good Conduct Medal, and was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Polk, La., on Oct. 11, 1945.

⑭ JOHN GORDON CHAUVIN, Cpl., CE, QMC, Army

Husband of Euphemia Marie B. Chauvin of Gramercy and son of Mr. and Mrs. John Louis Chauvin of Paulina. Born June 23, 1917, he attended Lutcher High School and was a sugar refinery machine operator and was also in construction work. On March 30, 1944, he entered the Army of the United States at Camp Beauregard and went to Camp Swift, Texas, for training with the Corps of Engineers. He spent 18 months in the Pacific Area assigned to duty in construction work on bridges with the Corps of Engineers and as chief clerk with the Quartermaster Corps, in Manila, New Guinea, Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines, and in Australia. He has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon with three bronze Campaign Stars, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars, the Good Conduct Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation, World War II Victory Ribbon. and three overseas Service Bars. He was granted his honorable discharge at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on March 8, 1946.

⑮ EDDIE ELI LOBELL, Seaman 1/C, Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Eli Lobell, Sr. He was born August 31, 1925, and is a graduate of Lutcher High School. He entered service Sept. 5, 1942, and received boot training at Corpus Christi, Texas. He later took amphibious training at many ports in California to include Port Hueneme, San Bruno, and Shoemaker. He sailed August 26, 1945, for Guam and worked handling small craft at this base and later at the Marianas. His duty in the Pacific was not complete at this writing and he was continuing to serve with the Navy.

⑯ PHILLIP ARTHUR LOBELL, Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Harvey, 2001 E. 21st St., Jacksonville, Fla. He was born Sept. 30, 1927, and was a student at Istrouma High School at the time of his entering service. He entered service Oct. 4, 1944, at Jacksonville, Fla., and received his early training at U. S. Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Md. Later assignments took him to Philadelphia, Pa.; Boston, Mass.; and Portland, Maine. His training was still in progress and he is continuing to serve with the Coast Guard.

⑰ WILLARD JOSEPH HYMEL, Tec/5, U. S. Army

Husband of Inez Scioneaux Hymel of Reserve and son of Mr. and Mrs. Felicien Hymel (Marie LeBouef), Gramercy. He was born Aug. 14, 1918, and attended Gramercy and Lutcher High Schools. He did electrical maintenance work prior to entering the Army of the United States on May 25, 1942, at Camp Livingston. He went to Camp Wheeler, Ga., as an infantry trainee and to Fort Dix, N. J., serving with the Corps of Engineers, Air Forces. Technician Fifth Grade Hymel went to the European Theater August 6, 1942, and served in England and France in communications. He was in combat in the Campaign of Normandy and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with one star. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at Harmon General Hospital, Longview, Texas, on Oct. 13, 1945.

⑱ CLIFFORD A. HYMEL, PFC, Infantry, AUS

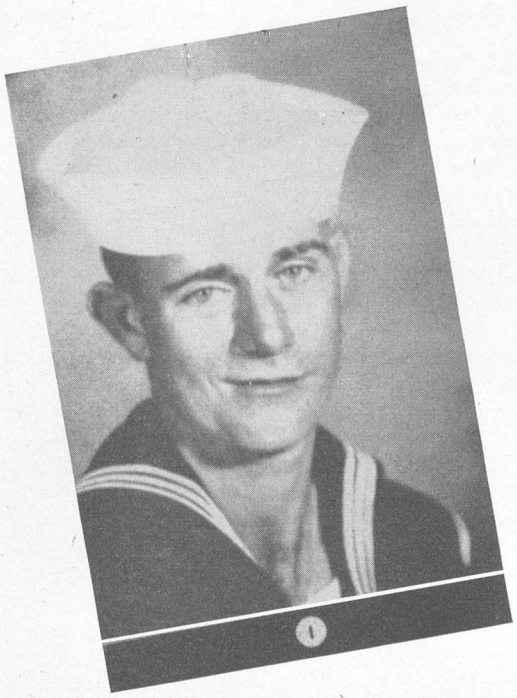
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Felicien Hymel of Gramercy, St. James Parish. He was born Dec. 2, 1924, and attended Gramercy School and Lutcher High School. He was a pipefitter prior to entering the Army of the United States in the Infantry on July 20, 1943, at Camp Beauregard. He served at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas, at Camp Barkeley, Texas, where he received Combat Medical Training, and at Camp Butner, N. C., where he served with the Infantry. On October 12, 1944, Private First Class Hymel embarked for the European Theater where he served in France with a Medical Detachment and went into combat in Belgium, Germany, and Austria. He fought in the Campaigns of the Rhineland and Central Europe and has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon with two stars, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal and World War II Victory Medal and the Combat Infantry Badge. He was honorably discharged February 4, 1946.

⑲ RUSSELL JOSEPH HYMEL, Coxswain (T), USNR

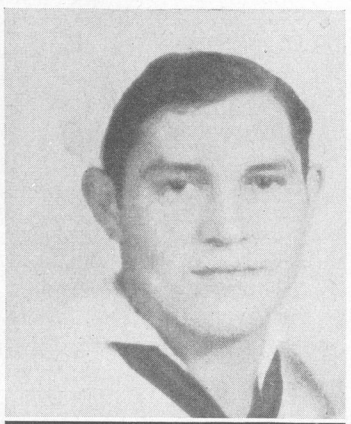
Son of Mr. and Mrs. Felicien Hymel of Gramercy, St. James Parish. He was born Oct. 21, 1922, and attended Gramercy School and Lutcher High School. He entered the United States Naval Reserve on June 6, 1943, at the Naval Recruiting Station, New Orleans, and went to the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Cal., for training. He was also stationed at the Receiving Station, Naval Operating Base, Norfolk, Va., and at the Naval Repair Base, New Orleans. He served with the USS Hyperion P and also on amphibious craft (LCS) in the Pacific. Coxswain Hymel has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. Returning to the States, he was granted his honorable discharge at New Orleans on Jan. 31, 1946.

⑳ ANTHONY D'AMICO, Sergeant, Air Forces

Killed in action when his plane was downed by anti-aircraft fire over Wiener Neustadt, Austria, on October 1, 1943. He parachuted down, suffering compound fractures of the right and left arm and left leg. Taken prisoner of war, he died at 3:30 p.m. the same day and was interred Oct. 4 in Group K, Wiener Neustadt Cemetery. He had the Citation of Honor, Air Medal for meritorious achievement in five bomber missions over enemy-held Europe, and the Purple Heart. The son of Joseph and Frances Colletti D'Amico of Maringouin, he was born Aug. 8, 1917, and attended Livonia High School. He entered the Army Air Forces August 17, 1942, training at Fort Myers, Fla., Geiger Field, Spokane, Wash., Blythe Air Base, Cal., Biggs Field, El Paso, Pyote AAB, Texas, Smoky Hill AAB, Salina, Kan., Clovis AAB, N. M., and Lincoln AAB, Neb., from which he went to Europe June 6, 1943, to serve as waist gunner and assistant radio operator in England and Tunisia, Sicily, Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia, and Austria.







① George Roy Ellender

S 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Adna Ellender of Hackberry, La., was born Oct. 30, 1922. He entered the U. S. Navy Oct. 27, 1943, and was stationed at San Diego, Calif. He also served in the United States Army, entering April 6, 1945, and was stationed at MacDill Field, Fla. He is a veteran of the Pacific Theater of Operations, and was wounded on the USS Halligan when it was sunk off the coast of Okinawa. Besides the Pacific Campaign Ribbon with three combat stars for major engagements, he holds the Purple Heart. Ellender served eighteen months on the destroyer and is one of the few who returned after the sinking of the Halligan.

② Martin Adam Bouanchaud

Private First Class, U. S. Army

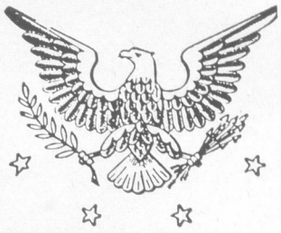
Husband of Gertrude Bouanchaud, of Ventress, La. He was born Dec. 19, 1920, attended Anchor School, and was doing farming prior to entering the service. He was inducted Sept. 15, 1942, at Camp Beauregard, and received his training at Camp Roberts, Calif.; Fort Ord, Calif.; Camp Hood, Texas; Camp Shanks, New York, and Camp Shelby, Miss., then assigned to Radio Communication. On Jan. 2, 1944, he embarked for the European Theater, and served in France, Germany, Austria, and Germany, on Combat Patrol. Private First Class Bouanchaud participated in the campaigns of Northern France, Central Europe, and Rhineland, and he has the European-African-Middle East Theater of Operations Medal, the American Theater of Operations Medal, and the Victory Medal. He was honorably discharged at Camp Bowie, Texas, Nov. 10, 1945. He is the son of Adam Bouanchaud, of Ventress, La.

③ Cleveland James Patin

So M 1/C, U. S. Navy

Husband of Dorothy Meuret Patin, 1704 North Street, Baton Rouge, and son of Mr. and Mrs. George Patin of New Roads. He was born Nov. 20, 1923, and attended Poydras High School, entering the United States Navy December 6, 1940, at New Orleans. He served at Naval bases at Norfolk, Va., Key West, Fla., New York City, San Pedro, Calif., and New Orleans. He served aboard the USS Dallas DD 199, the USS Greer DD 145, the USS French DE 367, and the USS Putnam DD 757. He went to Iceland Aug. 15, 1941, and served in Newfoundland, Ireland, North Africa, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Haiti, Port au Spain, Panama, Hawaii, the Marshall Islands, the Caroline Islands, New Guinea, the Palau Islands, the Marianas Islands, the Bonin Islands, the Molucca Islands, the Ryukyus Group, Honshu Island in Japan and the Azores. He has the American Defense Service Ribbon with bronze letter A, the American Theater Ribbon (2), the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater and Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbons, two Bronze Stars, and the Japanese Occupation Ribbon.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Evelyn Triggs Miller

② Wilmer Jodie Stroud

③ Stephen Decatur Rowe, Jr.

④ Kenneth Russel Triggs

⑤ Dewey J. Gary

⑥ Leroy G. Gary

⑦ Jean N. Gary

⑧ Rene Gary

⑨ Emery David Robinson

⑩ Rudy J. Robinson

⑪ Harold Milton Robinson

⑫ Wayne Robert Varnado

⑬ Reginald Arnel Robinson

⑭ Howard Stewart Robinson

⑮ Stanley J. Comeaux

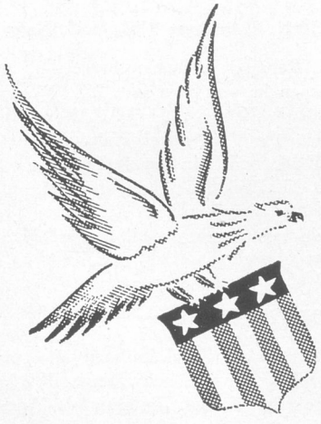
⑯ Placide Comeaux

⑰ Sulcy King Lambert

⑱ Howard Owens

⑲ Arnold Paul Matherne

⑳ Joseph Raymond Guidry





The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① EVELYN TRIGGS MILLER, Yeoman, 3/C, U. S. Navy WR

Daughter of Morris E. Triggs and Evelyn Rowe Roberts and wife of Lt. Donald James Miller, she was born June 29, 1923. Mrs. Miller attended Gueydan High and Lamarque High School. Entering the service Dec. 10, 1943, at Port Arthur, Texas, she was assigned to Hunter College, N. Y., for training. Later she was stationed at the U. S. Navy Yard, Mare Island, Calif. Mrs. Miller married Lt. Miller, a submarine naval officer, Nov. 10, 1945. She is the holder of the Victory Medal and American Theater Medal. She was honorably discharged December 1, 1945.

② WILMER JODIE STROUD, Cpl., U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Owen Stroud of Port Arthur, Texas, and husband of Lenora Lavender Stroud he was born July 25, 1919. Stroud attended Gueydan Schools. Prior to his enlistment he was employed by the Texas Company as a laboratory technician. Entering the service Nov. 5, 1943, Stroud was assigned to Camp Matthews, Calif., as an instructor on rifle range. He departed Jan. 14, 1945, for overseas and served as a rifle instructor and machine gun crewman on Guam. He was discharged March 1, 1946. Stroud is the father of Charles Kenneth.

③ STEPHEN DECATUR ROWE, JR., PFC, U. S. Army Air Force

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Decatur Rowe, Sr., and husband of Therese C. Rowe of Port Arthur, Texas, he was born July 31, 1904. Rowe attended Gueydan High School. Entering the service May 12, 1943, at Houston, Texas, he was assigned to Dodds Field, Texas, Sheppard Field, Texas, Wichita Falls, Texas, Camp Lee, Va., and McCook, Neb., serving as first cook. He was discharged April 26, 1944.

④ KENNETH RUSSEL TRIGGS, Cpl., U. S. Army Air Forces

Son of Morris E. Triggs of Hartford, Conn., and husband of Bessie Eve Triggs of Port Arthur, Texas, he was born August 1, 1921. Triggs attended Gueydan High School and Southwestern La. Institute. Entering the Army Air Forces Feb. 18, 1944, he was assigned to Amarillo, Texas, as an airplane mechanic. He was also stationed at Burbanks, Calif., Las Vegas, Nev., Kingman, Ariz., and Phoenix, Ariz. He is the holder of the American Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon, Victory Medal, AAF crew member badge and AAF Tech. Badge. He was discharged Dec. 13, 1945.

⑤ DEWEY J. GARY, Private, U. S. Marines

Son of Aurelie Gary and Mrs. Amy Primeaux Gary, Kaplan, Louisiana. He was born on March 6, 1917, and attended school in Kaplan. On Feb. 13, 1943, he entered the service at Lafayette, La., and was assigned to the Marine Corps, reporting for training to San Diego, Calif. Private Gary received no different assignments through the length of his service with the Marine Corps. His duties were performed at the Marine base until he received his honorable discharge March 6, 1943, at San Diego, Calif.

⑥ LEROY G. GARY, Sergeant, AAF

Son of Aurelie and Amie Primeaux Gary, Route 2, Kaplan. Born October 1, 1923, he attended Kaplan High School and Conservation Corps Camp, and worked as a bakery mechanic. On December 2, 1942, he entered the Army, with which he served in both Infantry and Air Force, at Lafayette, and went from Camp Beauregard to Camp Maxey, Texas. Sergeant Gary also served at Camp Swift, Texas, Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Dix and Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. On Sept. 12, 1944, he embarked for Cherbourg, France, and served in Belgium, Holland, and Germany with a machine gun squadron. He served on occupation duty as a hotel manager and in disarmament. Sergenat Gary was in combat in the Air Offensive over Germany and the Campaign of Central Europe, and has the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with two bronze Campaign Stars, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Good Conduct Medal, and the American Defense Service Ribbon. He was wounded in combat and received the Purple Heart, presented Feb. 6, 1946. He was honorably discharged Feb. 6, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

⑦ JEAN N. GARY, Cpl., Marines

Son of Aurelie and Amie Primeaux Gary of Kaplan. He was born October 13, 1925, and attended Kaplan High School at Kaplan. He was engaged in the occupation of farming prior to his induction in the United States Marine Corps Jan. 18, 1944, at New Orleans. He served at the Marine Corps Base in San Diego, Calif., at Camp Miramar, Calif., El Centro, Calif., and El Toro, Calif. On Oct 18, 1944, he embarked for the Marshall Islands. He served in Japan and on Okinawa with the Marine Air Force, assigned to duty as a truck driver, and has the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations Ribbon, the American Theater of Operations Ribbon, and World War II Victory Ribbon. He also has two bronze Campaign Stars for the Marshalls and Okinawa. Returning to the States, Corporal Gary was granted his honorable discharge at Camp Miramar on April 22, 1946.

⑧ RENE GARY, PFC, Army

Son of Aurelie and Amie Primeaux Gary of Route 2, Kaplan, Vermilion Parish. He was born April 30, 1927, and attended Kaplan High School and entered the Army of the United States, serving with the Infantry at the Infantry Replacement Training Center, Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Little Rock, Ark. Going to the European Theater on Dec. 11, 1944, he served in the European Theater with the Corps of Military Police, assigned to duty with the Third Army. He has the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon and World War II Victory Ribbon. He served also with the Army of Occupation in the European Theater in the Military Police.

⑨ EMERY DAVID ROBINSON, Shipfitter 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Emery A. Robinson of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Eloise Walsh Robinson he was born Oct. 26, 1917, and attended Baton Rouge High School. Entering the U. S. Navy Aug. 5, 1944, Robinson was assigned to the U. S. Naval Training Station, Bainbridge, Md., Mare Island, Calif., and Ship Repair Training Base USS Nereus. He departed Dec. 11, 1945, for Japan where his duty was servicing subs, planting and retrieving mines. After more than a year of faithful service to his country he was discharged March 16, 1946.

⑩ RUDY J. ROBINSON, MM 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Emery A. Robinson and husband of Evelyn Young Robinson of Baton Rouge, La., he was born March 13, 1916. Robinson attended Baton Rouge High School. Entering the service July 19, 1943, he was assigned to Camp Perry, Va., and Ft. Pierce,



Fla. He departed Feb. 2, 1944, for overseas and served on Guam, Saipan and the Philippines. Robinson is the holder of the Bronze Star, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with two stars and the Philippines Liberation Ribbon with one star. After more than two years of faithful service to his country he was discharged Nov. 17, 1945.

⑪ HAROLD MILTON ROBINSON, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Emery A. Robinson of Baton Rouge, La., he was born May 4, 1927, and attended Baton Rouge High School and La. State University. Entering the service April 30, 1945, Robinson was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for Fireman School. As F 2/C he was assigned to the USS Liguria and as F 1/C he departed for Pearl Harbor and served on Guam, Okinawa, Sasebo, Japan, Tsurgtao, China. Robinson is still serving with the U. S. Navy.

⑫ WAYNE ROBERT VARNADO, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. Pinkie A. Varnado and husband of Jennie L. Varnado he was born Jan. 20, 1924. Varnado attended Kentwood High School. Entering the service Aug. 13, 1943, Varnado was assigned to Camp Gruber, Okla., for training with the Infantry. Later he was sent to Camp Robinson, Ark., Camp Keiser, Ark., Camp Lucora, Ark., and Camp Osceola, Ark., as an MP. Varnado is the holder of the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Ribbon and American Theater Ribbon. He was discharged April 22, 1946.

⑬ REGINALD ARNEL ROBINSON, S/Sgt., U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Emery A. Robinson of Baton Rouge, La., he was born April 27, 1921, and attended Baton Rouge High School. Robinson entered the service June 16, 1942, and was assigned to San Diego, Calif., later being sent to Jacksonville, Fla. He trained at El Toro, Calif., in Aerial Gunnery. Sgt. Robinson departed in March, 1944, for the South Pacific and participated in the bitter fighting on the Marianas Islands. He was awarded the Navy Commendation Ribbon with one star, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon with one star, the Good Conduct Ribbon and Victory Ribbon. After three years of faithful service to his country he was discharged June 22, 1946.

⑭ HOWARD STEWART ROBINSON, Lieutenant, Army Air Corps

Son of Emery A. and Mary H. Robinson of Baton Rouge, La. He was born Feb. 6, 1919, and attended the Baton Rouge High School. He attended Louisiana State University where he majored in aeronautical engineering. Before entering the armed forces, he was employed by the Barnes Motor Supply Co., R. M. Brown & Son, Baton Rouge Telephone Co., and Douglas Aircraft Co. in Los Angeles, Calif. He entered the Army Air Forces March 18, 1942, at Harding Field, Baton Rouge, La.

⑮ STANLEY J. COMEAUX, Cpl., U. S. Army

Son of Joseph Comeaux and Edmae Broussard of Scott, La. Before entering the military service he was employed as an electrician. Entering the U. S. Army July 6, 1943, he was assigned to Fort McClellan, Ala., as an airplane sheet metal worker. Departing Aug. 20, 1943, for the European Theater, he served in Central Europe as an Artilleryman and Infantryman. He is the holder of the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations Ribbon, the Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal. Discharged Nov. 17, 1945.

⑯ PLACIDE COMEAUX, Field Cook, U. S. Marine Corps

Husband of Sybil Babineaux of Scott, La., was born June 2, 1921. Prior to entering the armed forces, he was engaged in the occupation of farming. On Sept. 17, 1942, he entered the Marine Corps and was assigned to Camp Pendleton, Calif. He was later sent to Camp Elliot, Calif. Departing March 11, 1943, for the Pacific Theater, he served at Auckland, New Zealand; Guadalcanal, Guam, and on the Mariana Islands. He participated in the battles on Guam and Iwo Jima and is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon with two battle stars. Discharged Oct. 25, 1945. Placide is the son of Joseph Comeaux and Edmae Broussard of Scott, La.

⑰ SULCY KING LAMBERT, Pvt., U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Evariste Lambert of French Settlement, La., and husband of Ester Matherne Lambert he was born June 28, 1908. He entered the service Aug. 20, 1945, and received training at Camp Beauregard, La., as a rifleman in the infantry. Departing April 7, 1944, for overseas Lambert participated in the bitter fighting at Normandy, Northern France and the Rhineland. He was awarded the Purple Heart, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster and the good conduct medal. Lambert was discharged at Brooks Convalescence Hospital at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. He is the father of Lorrie Fay Lambert.

⑱ HOWARD OWENS, Sergeant, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew E. Owens and husband of Marie Owens of Denham Springs, La., he was born July 10, 1922. He attended Albany High School. Owens entered the service Sept. 29, 1942, at Baton Rouge, La., and was assigned to Camp Luna. In July, 1945, he departed for Honolulu where he served at Hickam Field as Assistant Mess Sergeant. He was discharged Nov. 20, 1945, at Camp Shelby, Miss. He is the father of Carolyn Lee and Kay Nell Owens.

⑲ ARNOLD PAUL MATHERNE, Pvt. F/C, U. S. Army

Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. O. Matherne and husband of Evelyn Matherne. He attended French Settlement School. Matherne entered the service Jan. 12, 1944, and received training at Camp Fannin, Texas, as an infantryman. He departed July 15, 1944, for the European Theater of Operations. He participated in the bitter fighting of the Northern France Campaign and Rhineland Campaign and was awarded two battle stars. He was discharged at Camp Swift, Texas, Oct. 27, 1945. He is the father of Malcolm and Claudia Matherne.

⑳ JOSEPH RAYMOND GUIDRY, PFC, CMP, Supply, AUS

Husband of Lelia Marie Henry Guidry, 206 Leona St., Houma, and son of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Jean Guidry. He was born October 23, 1925, and attended Terrebonne High School. He was connected with the retail grocery business prior to induction Feb. 15, 1944, at Camp Beauregard, after which he went to Fort Benning, Ga., on Military Police duty. He spent nine months and 17 days in Europe, embarking Sept. 15, 1944, and served in Supply in France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He fought in the Campaigns of Northern France, the Rhineland, and Central Europe and has the American Theater Ribbon, EAMETO Ribbon with three Campaign Stars, Good Conduct and Victory Medals. He was discharged April 25, 1946, at Camp Shelby.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



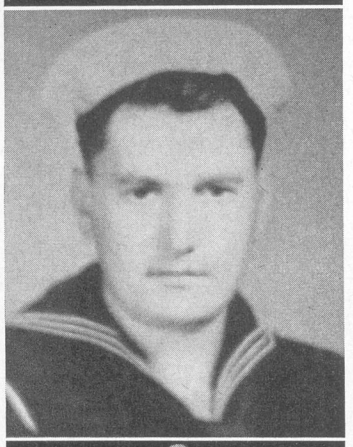
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② Matthew L. Bilbo

S 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James Bilbo of Baton Rouge, La., and husband of Jonnie Megehee Bilbo, he was born Nov. 5, 1908. Bilbo attended school at Gary, Miss., and prior to his enlistment was a hardwood lumber inspector. Entering the U. S. Navy March 22, 1944, he received training at San Diego, Calif., and departed April 29, 1944, aboard the USS Louisville for sea duty. Bilbo participated in the bitter fighting at Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Pelieu, Leyte, Luzon and 2nd Battle of the Philippines. He was awarded a commendation from the commanding officer for "meritorious performance of duty aboard the USS Louisville during the operation of U. S. Naval Forces against the Japanese on Luzon Island Jan. 6, 1945." He was discharged Aug. 7, 1945. Bilbo is the father of Joyce Yvonne Bilbo.

③ Stewart Douglas Lively

S/Sgt., U. S. Army

Son of Mrs. John E. Carter and husband of Winoia Edna Lively he was born June 6, 1920, and attended Ruston High School and Central High School. Entering the service Oct. 4, 1940, at Barksdale, La., he was trained as an airplane mechanic and served at Chanute Field, Ill., Albuquerque, N. M., Marfa, Texas, and Douglas, Ariz. Sgt. Lively was discharged Oct. 23, 1945, at Randolph, Texas, and re-enlisted May 28, 1946. He is the father of Johnnie Victoria and Stewart Douglas Lively, Jr.

① George Joseph Theriot

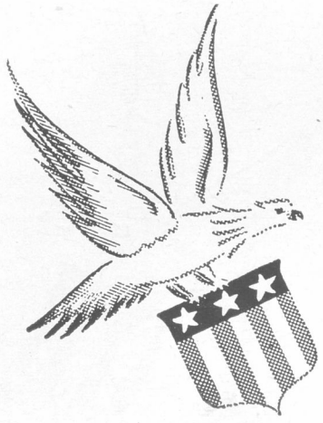
MM 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Alex Theriot of Galveston, Texas, and husband of Ella Noel Theriot of Abbeville, La., he was born Jan. 13, 1911. Entering the service Dec. 23, 1943, Theriot was assigned to Camp Waldron for training, later being sent to Mare Island, Calif. He departed April 10, 1945, for the Pacific and served on the Marshall Islands. He is the holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, American Theater Ribbon and Victory Ribbon. Theriot was discharged Nov. 23, 1945. He is the father of Mary Elizabeth, George, Jr., and Alfred John Theriot.

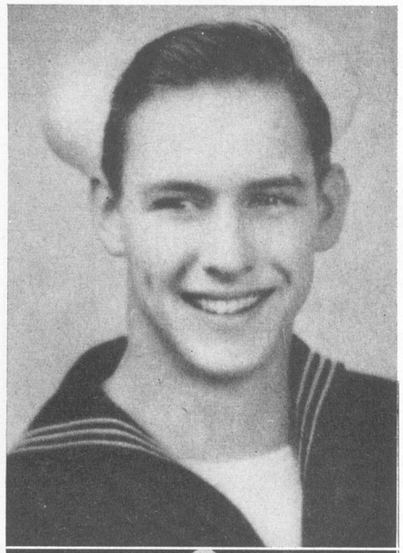
④ William Butcher

SK 1/C, U. S. Navy

He was born April 7, 1913, and attended the Cathedral High School and Southwestern Louisiana Institute. September 19, 1942, he entered the U. S. Navy at Houston, Texas. He received his boot training at the U. S. Naval Training Station, San Diego, Calif. Departing May 6, 1943, for the South Pacific, he served on the USS Cascade and the USS ATR-35 as Storekeeper. He participated in the campaigns of the Philippines, Okinawa, Saipan, Iwo Jima, and the Gilbert Islands. Seaman Butcher was honorably discharged Oct. 17, 1945, at Camp Wallace, Texas. He is the father of Donald Kent Butcher.







① Amos Rasberry, Jr.

Signalman 2/C, U. S. Navy

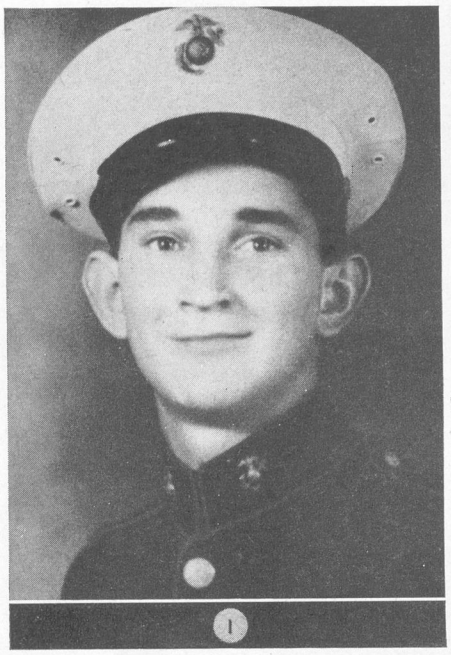
Son of Amos Rasberry, Sr., and husband of Euna B. Rasberry. He was born August 24, 1924, and attended Iota High School. Entering the service July 1, 1943, he received training at San Diego, Calif. Rasberry departed October 1, 1943, for the Pacific where he served with amphibious forces during the fighting of the Marshall Islands, Hollandia, New Guinea, Marianas, Philippines and Okinawa. Rasberry was discharged November 22, 1945.

② Elwin Joseph Beatty

Seaman 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Beatty of Baton Rouge, La., he was born November 6, 1923. Beatty attended Catholic High School and Baton Rouge Trade School. Entering the service Sept. 12, 1942, he was assigned to the Naval Air Station, New Orleans, La., as aviation maintenance man, later being sent to small craft training center at Miami, Fla. He departed May 2, 1944, for Brisbane, Australia, and participated in the invasion of Leyte and submarine wolfpacks on the Atlantic Seaboard. Beatty was awarded the Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Theatre Ribbon, American Theatre Ribbon, Victory Ribbon and Good Conduct Medal. He was wounded in the bitter fighting at Leyte and received the Purple Heart February 10, 1945. Beatty was discharged in May, 1946.

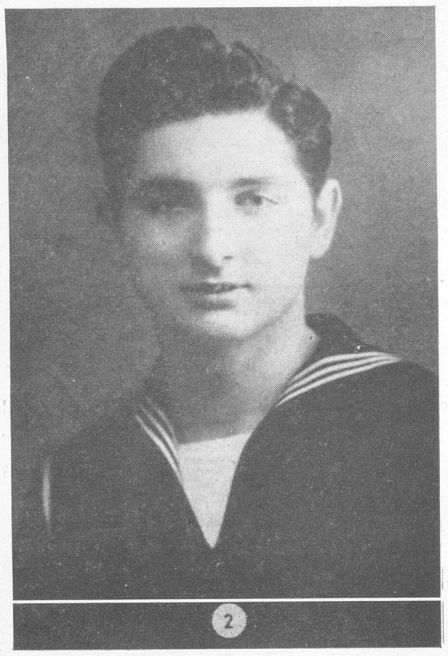
The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① PAUL HERMAN HANCHEY

Corporal, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman G. Hanchey of Lake Charles, La., he was born Oct. 23, 1925. He entered the service January 3, 1944, and received training at San Diego, Calif., later being sent to Camp Pendleton, Calif., for basic engineer training. Departing June 29, 1944, for overseas, Hanchey participated in the bitter fighting on Iwo Jima, and Volcano Islands. He was discharged April 12, 1946.



② JAMES W. WILSON

SM 3/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Wilson he was born July 29, 1926, and attended Louisiana State University. Entering the service July 25, 1944, he was assigned to San Diego, Calif., later being sent to Coronado, Calif. He departed April 13, 1945, for overseas and served with the Waipio Amphib Operating Base at Pearl Harbor. He was discharged May 28, 1946.

The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA



① Bertrand Faciane, Sr.

② Jack Theophile Faciane

③ James Fredric Stephens

④ Carl A. Lockwood

⑤ Jesse Napoleon Rush

⑥ Byron O. Wilkins, Jr.

⑦ Veto Palermo

⑧ Curtis T. Welch

⑨ Ralph John Nogues

⑩ Alton P. Jones

⑪ Joseph Jones

⑫ Johnnie Jones

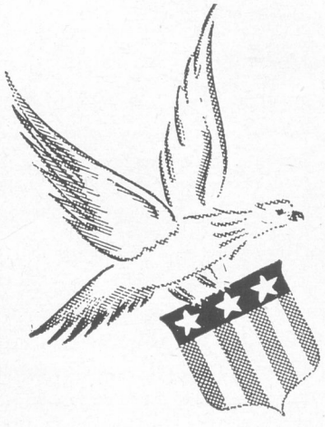
⑬ Roy Thomas McDonald

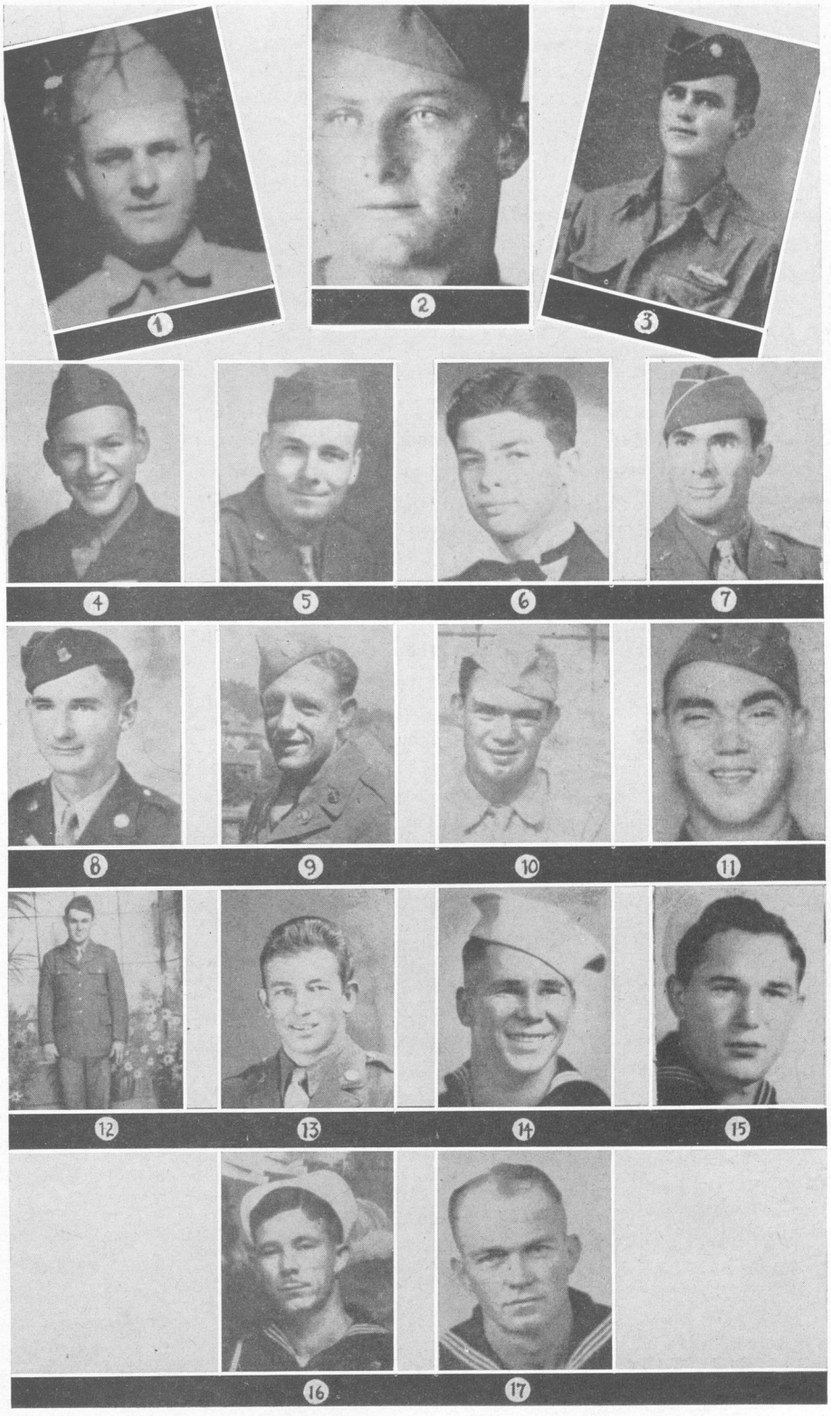
⑭ Henry Leonard Kennedy

⑮ C. J. Kennedy

⑯ Earl Kennedy

⑰ John Henry Martin





The FIGHTING MEN of LOUISIANA

① **BERTRAND FACIANE, SR.,**
S/Sgt., Transportation Corps

Son of Mrs. Augusta Faciane was born March 9, 1920. He attended the Slidell Grammar and High Schools and was a pipe and ship fitter prior to his enlistment. May 29, 1944, he entered the U. S. Army and was sent to Camp Plauche, New Orleans; later to Camp Gordon Johnson, Fla.; Fort Mason, Calif., and Camp Stoneman, Calif. Dec. 20, 1944, he departed for overseas duty, serving in New Guinea, Leyte, Manila, and Bataan. He participated in the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign and holds the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon, with one Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, and the World War II Victory Medal. Bertrand is the husband of Mrs. Colleen Helen Faciane and father of Carol Ann, Colleen Joyce, and Bertrand Faciane, Jr. He was discharged January 7, 1946.

② **JACK THEOPHILE FACIANE, Sergeant, Infantry**

Son of Mrs. Augusta Faciane of Slidell, La., he was born May 27, 1923. He attended the Slidell Grammar and High Schools and prior to entering the armed forces he was employed as a house painter and ship-fitter. March 26, 1943, he entered the U. S. Army and was assigned to Camp Butner, N. C., as a gunner on a 105 Howitzer; later to Fort Bragg, N. C., as Chief of Section on a 240-Howitzer. April 5, 1944, he departed for the European Theater, where he served in Scotland, Wales, England, France and Germany as Chief of Section. In Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia he served as Squad Leader. Jack participated in the campaigns of Normandy, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe and was awarded the EAMETO Medal, American Theater of Operations Medal, Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge. He was discharged Dec. 20, 1945.

③ **JAMES FREDRIC STEPHENS, Infantry**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Raymond Stephens of Kelly, La. He was born December 16, 1921, and attended the Kurthwood, Alco Grammar and Simpson High Schools. Prior to entering the armed forces he was employed by the Crowell Lumber Co. Dec. 26, 1942, he entered the U. S. Army at Fort Humbug, La., and was later stationed at Camp Howze, Texas, and Fort Dix, N. J. Departing Jan. 1, 1944, he served overseas in North Africa and Italy and was awarded the expert Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star, and the Distinguished Unit Badge. The Purple Heart was awarded in Sept., 1944, at Florence, Italy. This gallant soldier lost his life in the service of his country. Stephens was the husband of Mrs. James F. Stephens, of Leesville, La.

⑤ **JESSE NAPOLEON RUSH, U. S. Army**

Son of Ralph H. Rush and Evabell Wales Rush of Baton Rouge, La. He was born Feb. 14, 1919, and attended public schools at Columbia and Summit, Miss., Kentwood, Tickfaw, and Independence, La. Prior to entering the armed forces, he was employed as an outside machinist for E. I. Dupont. Nov. 28, 1944, he entered the U. S. Army at New Orleans, La., and was later stationed at Camp Robinson, Ark., Fort Meade, Md., Camp Shanks, N. Y., Camp Shelby, Miss., and Camp Swift, Texas. Departing April 21, 1945, for LaHavre, France, he served at Fontoy, France, and Pelzen, Czechoslovakia. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, European Theater of Operations Ribbon and Presidential Citation. Jesse is the husband of Allie Venita D. Rush and father of Jesse Cecil, Mary Elizabeth and Margaret Ann Rush. He received an honorable discharge Oct. 24, 1945.

⑥ **BYRON O. WILKINS, JR., Sgt., U. S. Army**

Son of Byron O. Wilkins of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Aug. 6, 1923, and attended Luxora High School, La. State University, and Oklahoma A. & M. College. Entering the service May 14, 1943, he was assigned to Camp Maxey, Texas, for training, later being sent to Stillwater, Okla., and Camp Stoneman, Calif. Wilkins departed Sept. 29, 1944, for overseas with the 99th Division and participated in the bitter fighting of the Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe Campaigns. He was captured Dec. 16, 1944, and was a prisoner of war at Stalags IV-B, VIII-A, IV-A until May 8, 1945. He was awarded the European Theater Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. Sgt. Wilkins received the Purple Heart Dec. 28, 1944, at Bonn, Germany. He was discharged Nov. 24, 1945, after more than two years of meritorious service for his country.

⑦ **VETO PALERMO, U. S. Army**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter A. Palermo of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. He was born April 26, 1903, and entered the armed forces September 25, 1942. (N. M. I. A.)

⑧ **CURTIS T. WELCH, Sgt., Army Air Force**

Son of Mrs. Rosa Shultz, of Jennings, La., was born Nov. 23, 1924. He attended Jennings High School and completed one and one-half years at Southwestern Louisiana Institute. He left college to enter the armed forces, which was July 12, 1943. (N. M. I. A.)

⑨ **RALPH JOHN NOGUES, U. S. Army**

Son of Raoul Joseph Nogues and Allynne M. Fontaine of New Orleans, La. He was born Oct. 14, 1918, and received his education at the Gayarre Public School, St. Cecilia's Parochial, Jesuit High, and S. J. Peters High School. Prior to entering the armed forces, he was employed as a shipping clerk. March 3, 1944, he entered the U. S. Army at New Orleans, La., receiving his Basic Training at Camp Blanding. He was later stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., for advanced radio training and at Fort Meade for overseas processing. Departing

Nov. 20, 1944, for Europe, he served in France, Austria, and with the Army of Occupation in Germany as a radio operator with the 7th Infantry Regt., 3rd Division. He participated in the campaigns in France and Germany and wears the Distinguished Unit Citation, Combat Infantryman's Badge, French Fourragere, Bronze Star, and the Good Conduct Medal. He is the husband of Madeline Mary Nogues.

⑩ ALTON P. JONES, U. S. Army

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jones of Creole, La. He was born October 21, 1926, and attended West Lake and Little Chenier Schools. Prior to entering the armed forces, he worked for Loften Brothers Oil Co. Alton entered the U. S. Army January 29, 1945.

(N. M. I. A.)

⑪ JOSEPH JONES, U. S. Marine Corps

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jones of Creole, La., was born December 20, 1925. He attended West Lake School and was engaged in farming before entering the service January 3, 1943. (N. M. I. A.)

⑫ JOHNNIE JONES, U. S. Army

He was born August 25, 1922, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jones of Creole, La. He attended West Lake School and entered the armed forces November 27, 1942. This gallant soldier lost his life in the service of his country. (N. M. I. A.)

⑬ ROY THOMAS McDONALD, PFC, U. S. Army

Son of Mr. and Mrs. P. J. McDonald of Livingston, La., he was born Dec. 29, 1922. He attended Doyle High School before entering the Army October 5, 1940. He was assigned to Ft. Benning, Ga., and Ft. Jackson, S. C. On June 6, 1943, he was shipped to Iceland where he served as a rifleman. McDonald also served in this capacity with the 30th Infantry Division in France, Holland, England, Belgium and Germany. He saw action in the campaigns for Northern France, Ardennes, Central Europe, and the Rhineland. The holder of one unit citation, European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Ribbon with four bronze stars, American Theater Ribbon, American Defense Service Ribbon and the Victory Medal. Discharged on Nov. 22, 1945. He is the husband of Mavis Lenette Barker McDonald.

⑭ HENRY LEONARD KENNEDY, S 1/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Flossie L. Kennedy of Baton Rouge, La., he was born Aug. 22, 1927, and attended Baker and Istrouma High Schools. Entering the service July 6, 1945, Kennedy was assigned to San Diego, Calif., later being sent to Shoemaker, Calif. He departed Nov. 19, 1945, for overseas and served in occupation and construction at Samar, Philippine Islands. He was discharged Aug. 1, 1946.

⑮ C. J. KENNEDY, MM 3/C, U. S. Navy

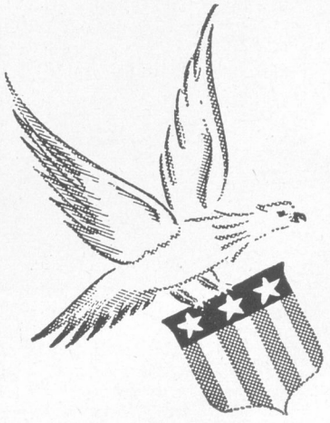
Husband of Dolores G. Kennedy of Los Angeles, Calif., he was born Sept. 3, 1924, and attended Baker High School. Entering the service in April, 1943, he was assigned to San Diego, Calif., for training, later being sent to San Pedro, Calif. Kennedy was assigned to the USS Elliot July 2, 1943, and served aboard until Sept. 26, 1945. He participated in the Asiatic-Pacific Campaigns. He was discharged Nov. 4, 1945.

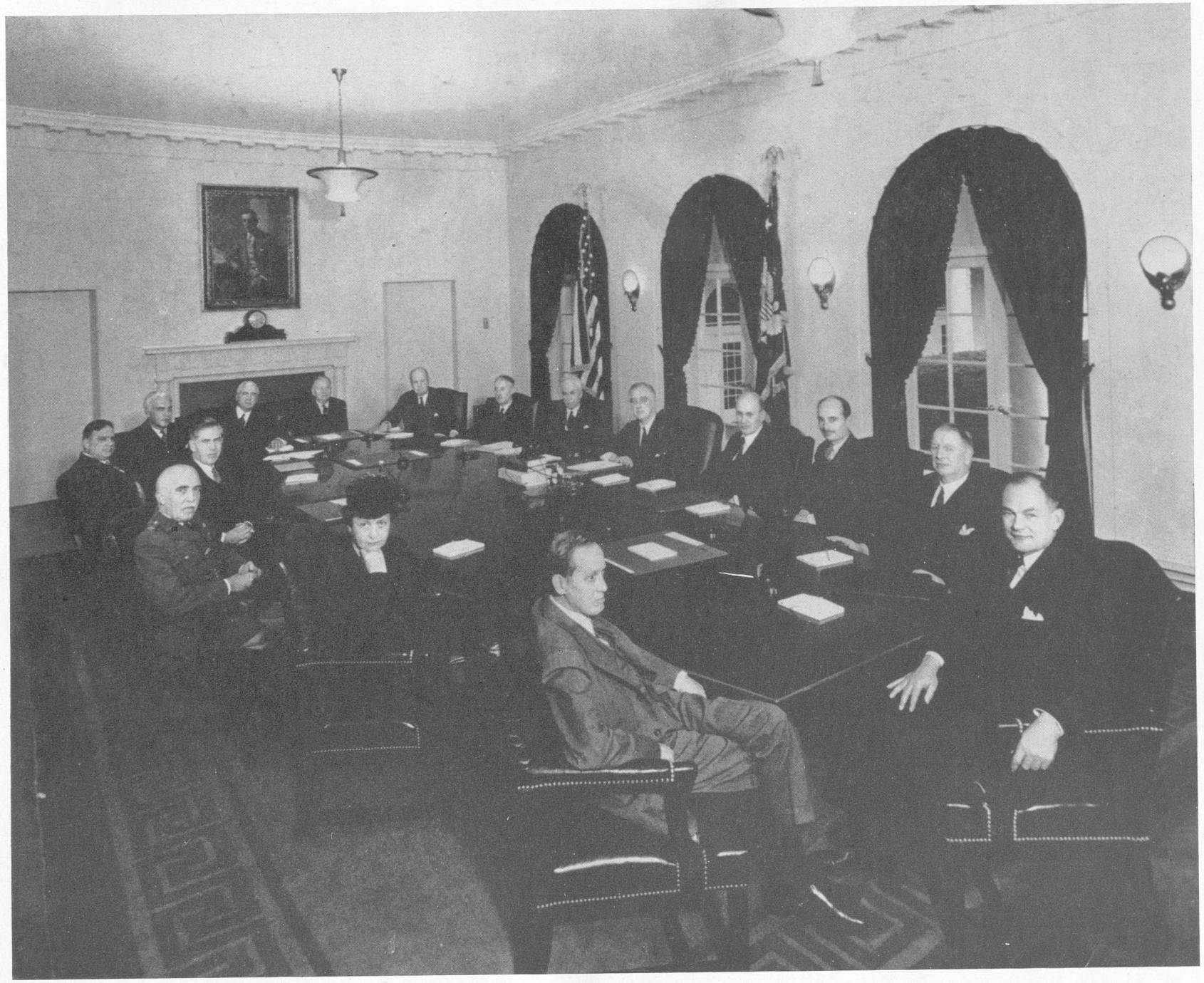
⑯ EARL KENNEDY, Seaman 2/C, U. S. Navy

Son of Mrs. Flossie Leonard Kennedy of Baton Rouge, La. He was born July 7, 1920, and attended Baker, Louisiana, High School. Prior to entering the armed forces, he was employed in Baton Rouge by the Standard Oil Company of Louisiana. In May, 1944, he joined the U. S. Navy, completed basic training at Camp Wallace, Texas, and was assigned to a new cruiser. His duty was to stand watches in a main battery handling room and in battle he passed ammunition for a main battery gun. He is the husband of the former Minnie Bowen of Aberdeen and has two children, Betty Sue and Dannie Earl Kennedy.

⑰ JOHN HENRY MARTIN, S 1/C, U. S. Coast Guard

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John A. Martin of Greenwell Springs, La., and husband of Ruth Ashford Martin he was born Dec. 1, 1916. Martin attended Pride High School. Entering the service August 25, 1942, at New Orleans, La., he was assigned to Harrahan Boot Camp, later being sent to the U. S. Coast Guard Lifeboat station at Galveston, Texas, where he served as a carpenter repairing boats. Martin was discharged Sept. 13, 1945. He is the father of John Lane and Eugene Henry Martin.





President Roosevelt's Wartime Cabinet

History of World War II

by
Dr. Granville D. Davis

Introduction

To all who were active participants in the Second World War, that terrible conflict was made up of intensely personal matters. The causes of the war, the many incidents that heralded its coming, the actual outbreak of hostilities, all for the most part passed unnoticed. The vast majority of Americans scarcely took cognizance of the war until an Act of Congress, passed a full year after the conflagration had flamed up in Europe, had required them to visit registration centers so that their names and lives could become a part of the vast lottery known as Selective Service.

Then had followed anxious days of scanning lists, either printed in newspapers or posted on Selective Service headquarters doors, to determine the registration number, and weeks of feverish examination of the mail for the inevitable "greetings" and subsequent classification card from the draft board. Ultimately the day of induction had arrived, and the war then began, for the first time, to crowd out all other matters.

The selectee and the volunteer are apt to think of World War II not in terms of costly, bloody invasions, or of great campaigns, or of major battles won or lost. Debates relative to the comparative value of the land and sea and air arms are of secondary importance. Instead, such relatively minor interests as basic training and first furloughs tend to loom large in the focus of the memory.

In retrospect the principal beachheads for the individual service man would include: close order drill, infiltration courses, map reading, waiting in line, gas chambers, latrine orderly, dispensaries, bivouacs, first sergeants, kitchen police, rifle marksmanship, promotions, inspections, guard duty, curfew, retreat parades, military police, orientation lectures, reviews, bed check, extra fatigue, police details, bayonet courses, maneuvers, desert training, troop trains, staging areas, ports of embarkation, troop ships, replacement pools, new continents, new languages, new people, air raids, fox holes, "K" rations, keeping dry, keeping warm, keeping clean, "D" day, "H" hour, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, Silver Star, Air Medal, Navy Cross, "V" days, point systems, redistribution stations, separation centers, and discharges. There was their war.

All of that is as it should be, for war, just as is anything else, is important to anyone only as it affects him personally. Yet one of the principal lessons taught by both World War I and World War II is that today, with the nations of the world completely interdependent, no event however minor or however distant can fail to have import for each individual. An insignificant skirmish between opposing garrisons on a bridge in far off China did not envelop America in war immediately, but five years later Americans were fighting in World War II that developed, in part, from that incident.

Consequently the story of the Second World War is herewith presented to show how the individual pattern of life in war time merged with the pattern of a world at war. Pieces in that pattern are scattered in space to the ends of the earth, where lie the seas and islands and continents where the war was fought, and in time from the era of the First World War, when the second conflict had its inception, to the period of the struggle to win the peace. Fitting those pieces together is a challenge to skill and patience, but the completed picture is a record of remarkable human endeavor.

CHAPTER I

The Coming of the War

Most of the peoples of the earth will remember such dates as September 1, 1939, the day of the German invasion of Poland, and December 7, 1941, the day of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, as the dates that mark the beginning of the Second World War. Actually, however, the war had been in progress for many years before the autumn of 1939. Indeed, one may believe that those who labeled the document closing the fighting of the First World War "an armistice" had been granted special powers of prophecy; for an armistice literally is a "brief cessation of hostilities." So brief was this truce that it may be questioned whether peace ever really was achieved after November 11, 1918.

Certainly there were those who participated in the making of the treaty closing the First World War who had no doubts that an enduring peace had ben guaranteed. Woodrow Wilson, for example, announced that the provisions against the Prussian power were so severe that none could doubt that the might of the German Empire was gone forever.

Nor could it be denied that the terms of the treaty were harsh enough to crush any major nation. The Treaty of Versailles reduced the area and population of the German Empire in Europe by about one-tenth; Alsace, Lorraine, Eupen, Moresnet, Malmedy, Memel, Posen, the Polish Corridor, Schleswig, Holstein, and Upper Silesia were among the provinces ceded to neighboring nations. In addition, all of the German overseas domain was seized and parceled out to the victorious Allied powers. Moreover, the Germans yielded thousands of locomotives and railway cars and most of their merchant vessels and promised to give up billions of dollars in manufactured commodities. The German army was cut down to only 100,000 men, the navy and air force were reduced to impotence, and the production of war materials was curtailed to a point where Germany could no longer be dangerous.

Nor did Germany's allies escape unpunished. The Austro-Hungarian Empire was sundered, and the successor states, Austria and Hungary, were forced to give up so much territory that neither was thereafter able to be counted as important among the family of nations. Bulgaria too suffered the usual fate of the vanquished, but lost less than Germany or Austria-Hungary since she had less to lose. Turkey was fortunate enough to be favored with moderate terms of peace.

Out of the conferences that made the treaties closing the First World War, two nations emerged more embittered than all the rest. One of those nations, as could be expected, was Germany. The other was one of the victorious states, Italy. Italy's bitterness stemmed from the fact that her people felt that they had not received a fair share of the spoils of war.

Thus it was that in those two countries the people were prepared to listen to the claims of self-proclaimed champions of their nations' greatness who asserted that once they came to power never again would their people suffer humiliation at a conference table. Economic instability and the impotence of political forces then in control aided those opportunists of Italy and Germany. Thereupon, Mussolini and Hitler emerged as leaders and ultimately as dictators, and thereafter Europe was to know no peace while those two lived.

As the dictators of Italy and Germany went about wrecking the peace, and particularly as Hitler set out to abrogate the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, the question at once arises as to what the victors of World War I did to preserve their victory. Machinery designed to guarantee the treaty terms had been established by the Allies at the peace conference. A League of Nations had been established, a League intended to correct any mistakes made at Versailles and designed to prevent future wars by cooperative action against aggressor nations.

During the two decades between the two World Wars, the League of Nations proved powerless to enforce the noble principles upon which it had been founded. The refusal of the United States to participate got the League off to a bad start, and thereafter few successes marked the history of the organization. In time it became apparent that the leading states in the League of Nations were making no honest effort to preserve world order; instead they were using the League as an agency to protect their own interests. Thus the League was guilty of ignoring Asiatic quarrels that were of slight concern to the major members, whereas Mediterranean or African controversies involving identical principles would cause the strong powers to prod the League into action. As a consequence, the League of Nations lost world favor and influence. And thus was the peace after the First World War lost.

The first of the post-war dictators to rise to power was Benito Mussolini in Italy. As organizer of the new political party, the Fascist Party, Mussolini slowly gained national attention; and with the weakening of rival factions, the Fascists in time came to control both politicians and army. In October, 1922, Mussolini became prime minister, a title he later changed to "Duce," or leader. Although the Duce maintained the fiction of constitutionalism in his system of government, he year by year assumed increasingly dictatorial authority until finally the Fascists were written into the constitution as the only legal party.

Ten years later Adolf Hitler was to complete his seizure of power in Germany. Hitler too was a party organizer, his faction, similar in ideology and purposes to Mussolini's Fascism, being the National Socialist or "Nazi" Party. The program of the Nazis as early as 1920 was clearly revealed as a source of trouble. It denounced the Treaty of Versailles and urged the union of all Germans in a great new German Empire. Hitler's frenzied oratory promising a restoration of German greatness created enthusiasm among his listeners, and each succeeding election added strength in the German parliament for the Nazis. In January, 1933, Hitler became the constitutional chancellor of Germany. Within four months the constitution which had enabled Hitler to gain power had been overthrown, the Third Reich had been proclaimed, and the Hitler dictatorship was at hand.

The methods by which Mussolini and Hitler had established themselves as dictators, the promises they had made, their use of the military, all gave warning to the world that attempts to override the League of Nations in an effort to gain territory and prestige would soon be made by both leaders. The world did not have long to wait.

From the start of Hitler's campaign for leadership in Germany, the "Fuehrer" had persistently denounced the Treaty of Versailles as the cause of all German ills. In March, 1935, he announced the repudiation of those terms of the treaty which had placed limitations on Germany's right to maintain a large standing army. Universal military service was now established in Germany, and a submarine and an air force second to none projected. This first of Hitler's many breaches of treaty terms could have been instantly corrected by any one of the nations he later was to endanger, but no neighboring leader possessed sufficient confidence or courage to make the matter an issue. It was a costly decision for the democratic states, for that success encouraged Hitler to try other means of abrogating treaties.

Next it was Mussolini's turn to upset the hopes for peace. Much of the Duce's popular appeal had been based on an insistence that the Italian imperial domain be increased until its grandeur rivaled that of ancient Rome. One of the few remaining independent areas of Africa, Ethiopia, offered an opportunity for territorial aggrandisement. In October, 1935, despite the protests of the League of Nations and the hostile action of Great Britain in massing her fleet in the Mediterranean, Italian armies invaded Ethiopia. The only excuse offered was that Ethiopia was permitting disorders along the frontier of Italy's colony, Eritrea. By May, 1936, the conquest of Ethiopia had been completed. No democratic nation and no League member had offered Ethiopia any aid other than sympathy.

While Mussolini was having his way in Africa, Hitler again threatened the general peace by taking still another step in his program of rearmament. In March, 1936, he dispatched German troops into the Rhineland, into a zone demilitarized by the Treaty of Versailles. This clear threat to France was allowed to go unchallenged; France manifested concern but took no forceful course to prevent the German action.

The two dictators presently acted in concert to give Europe and the world another war threat. In October, 1936, they jointly intervened in a civil war in Spain. Three months before, an insurrection had broken out among Spanish royalists and conservatives who sought to overthrow a duly elected constitutional republic. The leader of the rebels, Francisco Franco, had ambitions to become a dictator in Spain, and not unnaturally the sympathies of Hitler and Mussolini were with him. Approximately 200,000 Italian and German troops were sent to Spain to aid Franco, and those armies were abetted by tons of arms and munitions. The interests of the democratic nations, England, France, Russia, and the United States, were bound up with the republican government of Spain; and the people of all of those countries talked much, but did little, about aid for the forces opposed to Franco. While no help came from the democracies, as such, to the republic, many soldiers of fortune from democratic lands offered their services to that hard-pressed government. Thus with participants from so many nations involved, the Spanish Civil War was frequently referred to as the "Little World War."

But again the dictators won out. The republic was beaten down, and Franco was finally, early in 1939, established as Spain's dictator. A further blow to the cause of democracy was the extension of Nazi influence into the Iberian Peninsula. For Spain held a strong position in the western end of the Mediterranean; German strength there was a menace to the commerce and prestige of Great Britain. Morover, many felt that in Spain a battle had been waged between dictatorship and democracy with democracy coming out second best. Democratic nations and democracy as a system of government lost caste.

Further crises that led Europe ever nearer war occurred in 1938. March, 1938, saw the "anschluss" or unification of Austria and Germany. The treaties closing the First World War left Austria a helpless fourth-rate state; and since its population was wholly Germanic, Austria was obviously to be an early Nazi objective. After a preliminary softening of the Austrian government by edging Nazis into positions of influence, Hitler gave the signal for his armies to march into Austria. Four days later the Fuehrer rode in triumph down the streets of a cheering Vienna, the bloodless conquest having been completed. By that one stroke 7,000,000 Germans were added to the Nazis' growth strength.

Later in the same year Hitler turned eastward in search of new lands with which to increase the German domain. The Treaty of Versailles again offered him an excuse to make trouble. A new nation, Czechoslovakia, had been created after World War I, and part of the German Empire had been severed to round out the Czech state. Prompted by Nazi leaders, the Sudeten Germans of Czechoslovakia began to demand that the Sudeten area be returned to Germany. The loss of that crescent-shaped fringe would have left Czechoslovakia defenseless, for the Sudetenland contained the natural mountain barrier throughout which the Czechs had constructed fortifications for defense against Germany. As German pressure mounted, Czechoslovakia made it clear that she was determined to save the Sudetenland by war if necessary. Since France and Russia were bound by treaty to defend the Czechs, and since England would be expected to offer aid, it began to appear that this was the crisis that would at last start war in Europe.

Hitler and his foreign minister Von Ribbentrop made use of every trick in the diplomat's repertoire to bring about the annexation of the Sudetenland without war. The prime minister of England, Neville Chamberlain, the premier of France, Edouard Daladier, and the two dictators of Germany and Italy held a series of conversations on the Czech problem; and thus it came about that the fate of Czechoslovakia was sealed not on the battlefields of central Europe but rather in the conference rooms at Berchtesgaden, Godesberg, and Munich.

The climax came at Munich during the last two days of September, 1938. There Chamberlain, Daladier, Hitler and Mussolini gathered and reached an agreement. Their joint statement to President Edward Benes of Czechoslovakia amounted to an ultimatum: the Czechs must accede to the German demands for the Sudetenland. With her allies determined to sell her out in order to preserve peace, or at least to postpone war, Czechoslovakia had no other course but to yield.

Chamberlain thus could return to London to announce that the Munich Conference had secured "peace for our time." This complacent attitude was rudely jarred the following March when Hitler, despite his pre-Munich profession that the Sudetenland would be his last territorial demand in Europe, took over control of all Czechoslovakia by making it a protectorate.

Within a year after the Munich Conference, the Second World War had begun. For it developed that the Sudeten area, far from being Hitler's last territorial demand in Europe, was but a preliminary. First came the pocketing of the remainder of Czechoslovakia in March, 1939. Later in the same month Hitler went on to a "demand" for Memel in Lithuania. Now it was Mussolini's turn to "demand"; in April, 1939, Italian troops invaded Albania and within a few weeks all resistance had been suppressed. It began to appear that there would be no end to German and Italian "demands" and further that success would attend their every move as the democracies pursued their course of appeasement.

At last, in September, 1939, Hitler made what was to prove to be an actual last territorial demand in Europe. This time Europe was confronted with a crisis that could not be passed without war. The Second World War was at hand.

The place was Poland. In building up pressure against Poland as a prelude to the appropriation of Polish territory, Hitler followed what was by that time a familiar pattern. First came the appeal to the world in the form of a citation of the wrongs done Germany by the signatories to the Treaty of Versailles together with a frenzied insistence that the Polish Corridor and Danzig be restored to the Third Reich. Second, came the usual charge that the Poles were mistreating their German subjects. Third, Nazi troops were gathered on the borders facing Poland, and large forces were transported by sea to East Prussia, which lay east of the Polish Corridor. Finally, month by month increasing demands were made of Poland, concessions that would have put Poland in Hitler's power just as surely as the Czech concessions a year before had made Czechoslovakia unable to defend herself.

Nor was diplomacy neglected. Hitler was ready to fight, but he preferred another bloodless victory. Quiet negotiations had been pursued with Russia for some time, with the result that the Soviet Union and Germany agreed to a Non-Aggression Treaty, an accord in which peace for ten years was promised between these two previously antagonistic neighbors.

The announcement, on August 23, 1939, of the Soviet-Nazi pact electrified the democratic world. Since the Soviet and Nazi philosophies were so completely at variance, since Hitler's earlier written and spoken words had been so openly anti-Russian, since Hitler had so ruthlessly suppressed communism within Germany, and, finally, since Hitler's announced territorial ambitions included Russian holdings, democratic leaders had scarcely considered an alliance between Germany and Russia a possibility. In fact, the principal purpose of Prime Minister Chamberlain at Munich appears to have been to lend encouragement to a war between Russia and Germany, a war in which Nazis and Communists could decimate each other's ranks while the democratic states watched without visible pain or regret.

This Chamberlain anti-Soviet policy seems to have been largely responsible for driving Premier Stalin of Russia temporarily into the Nazi camp. No action of Stalin after August, 1939, indicated that he believed that the pact with Hitler offered permanent safety for Russia; on the contrary, he moved swiftly to make the Soviet Republic as secure as possible against Nazi attack. When the Non-Aggression Pact became a scrap of paper two years later, Russia was ready.

But the democracies were not ready for the treaty when it was announced in August of 1939. The removal of the danger of attack by Russia, hitherto one of the greatest checks to aggressive action on the part of Hitler, meant that a European war was brought that much closer. And contrary to Chamberlain's fatuous dreams, it would be a war between democracy and Naziism, not between Germany and Russia. The consternation of England and France was one of the major accomplishments of the Soviet-Nazi pact sought by Hitler. Indeed, he may have invaded Poland feeling that the British and French would be too overwhelmed to offer opposition.

This time, however, there was no appeasement. The people of both Great Britain and France realized that their nations were unprepared to wage war, but, nevertheless, they were insistent that there be no more conferences such as the one held at Munich. From March until September of 1939, the French and British ministers announced on several occasions their determination to make war to aid Poland in any fight for independence. Three times in that same period the President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, made direct appeals to Hitler and Mussolini urging a peaceful adjustment of all differences, all without result. War was the only instrument of policy that remained.

The Second World War officially began when, on September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland. On September 3, 1939, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany. Italy, for the time being, kept out of the war but instead announced that she was a non-belligerent ally of Germany. Unofficially, of course, the German-Italian Axis had been waging war for some years.

During the period immediately following the First World War, histories of the conflict customarily assigned the full responsibility for the war to Germany and her central European allies. Within a decade, however, a new school of "revisionist" historians had arisen to debate with those who wrote of German blame from the traditional point of view. The revisionists, while admitting German and Austrian wrong-doing, contended that a study of the African and the Near Eastern crises that preceded the outbreak of war showed that the Allies, England and France and Russia and Serbia, must share the blame. As more and more official documents were made public property by the nations of the world, the traditionalists and revisionists sifted the papers carefully in search of quotations with which to bolster their arguments. In time the revisionists succeeded in gaining the admission that the Allies had not been entirely blameless, and perhaps a majority of the students of history came to feel that the guilt for the First World War was shared about equally by Allied and Central Powers.

As the Second World War draws to a close, it is difficult to believe that a revisionist school of historians will get much of a hearing in the decade that follows the conclusion of the war. As the secret state papers of all nations become open pages to scholars, doubtless it will be possible to show that various Allied statesmen would have done better to let this thing or that be left unsaid or undone. And probably a certain amount of blame will be attached to the Allies for their misguided policy after the First World War, a policy which should have been either less severe at the writing of the peace or more severe in the enforcing of it.

Yet a consideration of the crises which served as a prelude to the Second World War shows Germany and Italy almost wholly in the wrong. The crises that marked the way down the road to war included the militarization of the Rhineland, the intervention in the Spanish Civil War, the conquest of Ethiopia, the annexation of Austria, the seizure of the Sudetenland, the absorbing of Czechoslovakia, the ravishing of Albania, the pocketing of Memel, and the invasion of Poland. Each succeeding crisis brought Europe nearer to war, and the yielding of one side or the other was necessary to prevent the outbreak of conflict. In no instance did Hitler or Mussolini yield; each time the objective they had set out to obtain was fully achieved. The Munich Conference symbolizes at once the Allied desire for peace and their lack of a resolute policy. The revisionists will find it difficult to find the democracies guilty of anything except the unfortunate possession of inept leadership. The guilt of causing the Second World War in Europe rests squarely with the dictators of Germany and Italy.

CHAPTER II

First Campaigns

On September 1, 1939, Adolf Hitler stood before the German parliamentary body and announced that since early morning war had been in progress between Germany and Poland. He wore the field-gray uniform of the German officer, and he told his audience that he would not take it off until victory had been won. German successes in the first year of war made it appear that Hitler might be able to put aside his field-gray tunic sooner than he could possibly have hoped. The Battle of Poland, the invasion of Denmark and Norway, the Battle of the Low Countries, and the Battle of France were marked by sensational Nazi victories. Only in the Battle of Britain did Hitler's plans fail to materialize.

That year of conflict illustrates clearly the advantage that Germany held as a result of its decade of preparation for war. Nearly all of Germany's industry had been geared to the production of weapons, the Nazi philosophy being that the deprivation of comforts was worth while in view of the advantages to be gained later. This policy of "guns rather than butter" provided Germany with such a store of war materials that the Nazis were able to take and hold the offensive throughout the first three years of war. It was a policy, moreover, that very nearly brought total victory.

Against Poland, Hitler had at battle stations not less than a million men, while only half that number of Poles were immediately available. Field Marshal Hermann Goering had 7,000 first-line planes ready and waiting, and the Nazis actually used over 2,000 planes against Poland. In their defense the Poles were able to muster less than 700 aircraft. Moreover, the Germans had overwhelming strength in armored and mechanized might. Poland had almost no motorized equipment, and against Germany's armored divisions the Polish cavalry could scarcely be expected to make a successful stand.

In addition the Germans had all the geographic factors in their favor. Poland was a nation possessed of few natural barriers in the form of rivers or seas or mountains that might offer an obstacle to an aggressor. Poland's flat plains made defense against mechanized attack virtually impossible for a country without armored divisions of its own. Finally, Poland's isolated position on the map of Europe rendered the possibilities for aid from England and France negligible. The French armies were held back from a concerted attack of diversion by the German "west wall" of concrete fortifications and pillboxes facing France; and since Great Britain's navy could gain no entrance to the Baltic Sea, it was of little value to a nation without a coast line. And neither France nor England had a large enough air force to divert the German *Luftwaffe*.

Reduced then to a contest simply between powerful Germany and powerless Poland, the unequal struggle was not of long duration. Considering the overwhelming odds against them, the Poles put up a valiant fight; but cavalry was not a match for tanks, and infantry could offer no defense against dive bombers.

The German air force opened the attack by delivering paralyzing blows from which the Poles never recovered. The first action of the war, in fact, was the dawn bombing of Polish air fields. Thus by the time the Poles knew their nation was at war most of their planes had been put out of commission, and the majority of Polish planes were never able to take to the air. Thereafter the Nazis had complete command of the air, an advantage that was fully exploited. Communications were soon torn apart. Polish ground forces were continuously strafed. And cities and towns were ruthlessly bombed, industrial and residential areas alike feeling the terrible weight of the Nazi blows.

The armies of Von Brauchitsch, Von Bock, and Von Rundstedt completed the work of destruction. Their strategy was to separate Marshal Smigly-Rydz's forces by driving wedges between units and then to encircle them. In this fashion the Polish armies were broken up and destroyed. The destruction took less than five weeks. On September 27, 1939, Warsaw was forced to end its heroic stand, and a few days later the unequal struggle was ended. Europe and the world were thus introduced to the Nazi lightning war, *blitzkrieg*.

Not all of Poland fell to Hitler, however, for as the Battle of Poland neared an end unwelcome aid was thrust upon the Germans by their Soviet ally. Ten days before Warsaw surrendered, Russian armies moved across the Polish eastern frontier and occupied half of the country. Nevertheless, the overrunning of Poland had given the Nazis the resources of 73,000 square miles of territory and the command of 22,000,000 people.

From October, 1939, to April, 1940, virtually all land operations between the opposing forces came to a halt. As a result the neutral press came to refer to the war as a "sitzkrieg" and as a "phony war." The explanation for this period of inactivity, according to Chamberlain and Daladier, was that the fortifications of the Maginot Line guarding France offered such an obstacle to the Nazis that they would never dare to open an offensive against the combined British and French forces guarding the aproaches to France. The Allies, said Chamberlain, had plenty of time in which to accumulate sufficient materials of war with which to overpower Germany. There were some who hoped that a blockade of Germany by the British fleet would bring about the collapse of the Nazis by the same process of starvation that had defeated the Prussians in 1918.

Only at sea was the war pressed with any vigor. German submarines again began to stalk British shipping, and early in the war the sinking of merchant vessels began to be a regular occurrence. More disastrous to the British was the torpedoing of the aircraft carrier *Courageous* in September, 1939, and the sinking of the battleship *Royal Oak* a month later. In December, however, the British retaliated by battering the German pocket battleship, the *Graf Spee*, to such an extent that it was scuttled by its crew.

With the approach of spring and better weather, the warring opponents again offered proof that this was to be no "phony war." The scene of the new activity was Denmark and Norway. On April 8, 1940, the British announced that they had mined the seas off Norway to prevent Germany from using Norwegian territorial waters as a route for her merchant shipping. This action would have brought to an end the transshipment of iron ore from Sweden by way of the Norwegian city of Narvik.

Immediate retaliation came from Germany; the British action was a signal for the opening of a Nazi operation that had long been in preparation. On April 9, 1940, German troops simultaneously invaded Denmark and Norway. Hitler gave as his excuse for the invasion of these neutral nations the British navy's mining of Norway's home waters. Yet the Nazi troops that moved on April 9, the day after the British announcement, were ready and waiting, and the prompt appearance of fifth columnists within Norway indicates that they had been stationed there long before April.

The skill of the German planners enabled Hitler to make quick work of the Danish and Norwegian campaigns. The Danes, apparently impressed by the object lesson of the Polish blitzkrieg, offered no resistance, and Denmark was overrun in one day. Norway took little longer. Small forces of Nazis made swift landings at such coastal cities as Narvik, Bergen, Trondheim and Stravanger. Cooperating air forces and airborne troops quickly seized all available air fields, and again the Germans obtained immediate air supremacy. Reinforcements streamed in from Germany in transport planes. Tactics of that sort put Oslo, the Norwegian capital, in Nazi hands on the first day of the invasion. Meanwhile, all German efforts were seconded by pro-Nazi collaborationists in Norway led by Vidkun Quisling, whose name thereafter became synonymous with traitors, fifth columnists, and saboteurs everywhere.

A week later, the British and French finally aroused themselves enough to send a small expedition of less than 15,000 men to Norway. Outnumbered ten to one, this Allied force could not have been expected to expel the Germans, who had spent a week in securing their position. Within a few days the Allies were forced to withdraw.

Defeat in Norway was the last failure the British people were willing to accept from Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. To the last Chamberlain persisted in demonstrating his lack of understanding of the desperate position of England. Only a short while before Hitler's invasion of Denmark and Norway, Chamberlain announced that the Fuehrer's inactivity during the winter had enabled Allied factories to catch up in the production of munitions. Hitler, said Chamberlain, had "missed the bus." That announcement made the news from Norway all the more disappointing, and the House of Commons thereupon gave expression to that feeling of disappointment and dismay by voting Chamberlain out of office. Upon Chamberlain's resignation, Winston Churchill, a frequent critic of the "too little and too late" policy of his predecessor's administration, was named as the new head of the British government.

In France also the Norwegian debacle had created a cabinet crisis, although the differences of the cabinet ministers had not yet been made public. Two months earlier, the French people had forced Daladier from office, and Paul Reynaud had succeeded him as Premier. As a result of Nazi success in Norway, Reynaud determined to get rid of General Gamelin, the commander-in-chief of the armies of France. General Gamelin had strong support among the cabinet members, and Reynaud had made up his mind to seek a show-down on the issue.

Yet before a decision could be reached, Hitler struck again by sending his troops into Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg. The cabinet quieted its bickering, and Reynaud postponed the removal of Gamelin. Again Hitler had chosen his time for an offensive well. Both England and France were now forced to fight for their existence at a time when the central administration of each nation was badly divided. The prospect was discouraging enough to prompt Winston Churchill to warn the people of the Allied nations in realistic terms that all he could offer was "blood, toil, tears, and sweat."

On May 10, 1940, Germany fell upon the Low Countries without warning, without the issuance of an ultimatum. While these small nations were not defenseless, they had less than a million

men and a thousand planes between them. This deficiency in numbers was in part made up when the French armies and the British Expeditionary Force moved northward to the aid of Holland and Belgium.

Yet from the outset the Allies were impeded by their long-standing policy of defensive warfare. Long before the war began, France had prepared for a future contest with Germany by constructing the elaborate system of fortifications known as the Maginot Line, which extended from the Swiss Border northward to Montmedy. Natural obstacles, the Meuse River and the forest of Ardennes, had been depended on to slow a German advance until troops could move into position. Behind these barriers, believed to be impregnable, France felt ready to make its stand. This strategy of the defensive was her undoing.

The German offensive tactics for a war on France had been developed by General Von Schlieffen long before the First World War began. The Schlieffen Plan called for a vast enveloping movement by German armies advancing through Belgium and northern France in wide sweeping arcs that stretched from a pivot in eastern France on to the sea. In this fashion, the Germans intended to push the French army before them until they could be hammered against German forces lining the eastern frontier of France. The Schlieffen Plan had almost been made to work by the German armies of 1914; the plan was made to function smoothly by the Nazis of 1940.

In opening their drive, the Nazis used the tactics of blitzkrieg which by this time had become standardized. Secret agents and fifth columnists proved effective again in Holland, and on this occasion they were aided by thousands of parachutists. Again the Luftwaffe smothered opposing air forces and bombed into ineffectiveness Allied air fields. Again major cities were made to feel the frightfulness of Nazi "schrecklichkeit," a practiced, studied, and systematic policy of terror. Again armored columns penetrated far into Allied territory destroying communications and driving opening wedges that infantry could later exploit. Again the Nazi advance was so swift that vital bridges fell into alien hands before they could be destroyed. Fortresses hitherto considered impossible to storm were quickly captured; and road blocks and cut dikes failed to slow down the Nazi thrusts.

Dutch resistance against such a blitzkrieg lasted only five days. Rotterdam, with much of the city destroyed by bombardment, capitulated in one day. Queen Wilhelmina and her cabinet ministers were forced to flee to London, and on May 14 The Netherlands joined Poland, Denmark, and Norway as a Nazi conquest.

The German blitzkrieg in Belgium steadily increased in violence. The Belgian Meuse River and the Albert Canal had been crossed by the Nazis on May 10 and thereby the Allies lost their forward line. Attempts of the High Command to establish a stable line of defense thereafter proved only temporarily effective. On May 12 the Meuse was again forced farther south at Sedan, and General Gamelin was compelled to draw his armies back. The breakthrough at Sedan, lying north of the Maginot Line, made the position of Allied troops in Belgium untenable, and the widening of this Nazi spearhead in time rendered the Maginot Line useless and left France wide open to attack. The Battle of Sedan was the decisive battle of the campaigns in Belgium and France.

As soon as the Nazis had made their position at Sedan secure, their panzer divisions began a race westward to the sea. On May 21, they reached the English Channel at Abbeville, and promptly they swung northward to trap the British and French armies. It was while this immense encircling movement was in progress that General Gamelin was relieved of his command and seventy-three-year-old General Maxime Weygand was named as his successor as leader of a cause already lost.

The blame for the French defeat subsequently was assigned to Gamelin and many felt that his was a criminal guilt. Yet Gamelin cannot alone be censured. Premier Reynaud, certainly no apologist for Gamelin, probably gave the most accurate estimate of the reason for France's military failure in an address to the French Senate. "The truth is," he said, "that our classic conception of warfare has run counter to a new conception. The basis of this conception is not only in the massive use of armored divisions and of fighting airplanes; it is in the disorganization of the enemy rear by deep raids by parachutists. . . ." Stated differently, a strategy of stationary defense could not work successfully against an offensive powered by armored divisions and airplanes. Gamelin had studied military tactics in the wrong school.

It was too late, however, for the Allies to talk of assuming the offensive. The Germans continued to press their attack north of Abbeville. Boulogne was the next port to fall to the Nazis, and by May 26 the stubborn British defense of Calais had been overcome. Only Dunkirk remained in Allied hands as a port from which to evacuate the considerable force encircled in Flanders; and when on May 28 King Leopold of Belgium accepted the German demand of unconditional surrender of all of Belgium, it appeared that the Nazis' giant pincers would now he snapped shut on Dunkirk.

On May 29 the evacuation of Dunkirk began. The Luftwaffe was held back by the British Royal Air Force, and the British Navy, making use of anything that would float, carried the trapped Allied troops to safety in England. 300,000 men were saved in that gallant action, but 50,000 men were left behind either dead or prisoners. All equipment had to be abandoned on the Flemish beaches. The Battle of Flanders could be marked down as another Allied disaster.

Now began the Battle of France. While the Germans were concentrating their attention on Dunkirk, General Weygand sought to reestablish a French line along the Somme and Aisne rivers. Yet by June 8 the Somme line had been breached and all efforts to restore a front thereafter failed. On June 14 the Germans entered Paris, and all realized that the Battle of France was at an end. On June 16 Reynaud was replaced by Marshal Henri Petain as Premier, and promptly Petain asked for an armistice.

On June 21, at Compiegne, in the same railway car used to work out the terms of the armistice of 1918, French representatives met a German delegation and received the terms of surrender. By these terms, northern France was to be occupied by the Nazis, and a pro-Nazi French government, headed by Petain, was permitted to hold nominal control in the south. Thus died the Republic of France.

Some in France, however, refused to let the ideals of democracy and republicanism come to an end. Led by General Charles de Gaulle, they made their way to England and there organized a French National Committee to serve as a working government for the "Free French." Especially did they seek to keep resistance in the colonies alive and to prevent hope from dying within France.

Prophetically Winston Churchill on July 14, Bastille Day, spoke to the French and to the free world: "Who could foresee what the course of a year would bring? Who can foresee what the course of other years will bring? Faith is given to us as a help and comfort when we stand in awe before the unfurling scroll of human destiny. And I proclaim my faith that some of us will live to see a Fourteenth of July when a liberated France will once again rejoice in her greatness and in her glory, and once again stand forward as the champion of the freedom and the rights of man. When that day dawns, as dawn it will, the soul of France will turn with comprehension and kindness to those Frenchmen and Frenchwomen, wherever they may be, who in the darkest hour did not despair of the Republic."

Similar words of encouragement Prime Minister Churchill was having to utter to the people of the British Empire, for now the British were alone. The Battle of Britain would soon reveal whether England was to suffer the same fate of all other nations upon whom the Nazis had unleashed their fury. Practically unarmed and with only the remnants of a battered army as a result of the disaster in Flanders and the evacuation at Dunkirk, the British were felt by many neutral observers to be in no condition to continue. That Britain did continue can be attributed to the courage of the people and their faith in their way of life. They used Churchill's words as a cry of defiance: "We shall defend our island whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."

The fall of France brought Britons to full realization, for the first time, the danger that their empire faced. Until then they had refused to believe that they might lose the war. Now all complacency was gone. After nearly a year of fighting, the English finally entered on a program of full-time, full-scale armament production. Workers, regardless of age or sex, were drafted for employment in munitions plants. A civilian home guard of 500,000 was organized. Trenches, pillboxes, and air raid shelters were prepared in city parks and along the streets. Barrage balloons were put up over London to entangle low-flying enemy bombers. If the Nazis tried invasion, the British were determined to make the venture costly.

Hitler and his High Command elected to bomb England into capitulation. Just as terror by aerial bombardment had forced Warsaw and Rotterdam to surrender, so would London and other English cities, according to the Nazi plan, be compelled to yield. On August 8, 1940, the *blitz* by air on England began and from that time until October the attacks continued. Military, industrial, and residential areas were pounded in turn. In the month from August 8 to September 5, sixty major German attacks were made on such targets as the Portsmouth naval base, the industrial sections of Birmingham, Manchester, Plymouth, and Belfast, the Croydon airport, the port of Liverpool, and, continuously, the city of London.

The Royal Air Force used sparingly the seven hundred fighter planes available at the start of the *blitz*. Airfields were scattered throughout the countryside in order to avoid the danger of concentrating too many planes where a single enemy attack might bring disaster. The British fighter planes were held out of hopeless engagements; risks were run only when the conditions were entirely favorable. It was a policy that saved the R.A.F., and the R.A.F. saved England.

On one day, one squadron of Spitfires took to the air twenty-one separate times to attack raiding Nazi bombers. On another occasion, two flights of 250 German planes each were met over London by Hurricanes and Spitfires during a noon raid, and not less than 185 of the Nazi ships were knocked out of the air. Thereafter the Germans saw fit to switch from daylight raids to night

bombing. Small though the English force was, the pilots were skilled and courageous enough to prevent bombers from flying at tree-top level over British cities; London was never the easy target that helpless, defenseless Rotterdam and Warsaw had been.

Civilians, too, showed remarkable powers of endurance. A million went at nights to sleep out the ceaseless raids in subway stations. Other millions worked tirelessly to dig away rubble and to fight fires. Civilian morale refused to be broken by the Nazi *schrecklichkeit*. The terroristic raids simply made them more doggedly determined.

In October, the foggy weather of winter made air attacks on England more hazardous, and thereafter strikes of the *Luftwaffe* were less frequent. Occasional nuisance raids were made, and before the end of the year two of the worst attacks of the *blitz* were delivered. On November 14, some 500 German planes blasted Coventry and almost leveled the city. Then on December 29, London was set aflame by an incendiary bomb assault that ruined a square mile within the heart of the city. By the end of 1940, the British had counted nearly 23,000 dead and 32,000 seriously injured in the Battle of Britain.

Yet by that time, England had begun to feel that the danger, at least for the time being was past. English skies, while far from cleared of Nazi planes, were freer of enemy ships than they had been for months. Moreover, heartening announcements of R.A.F. raids on German cities acted as a tonic to Britons. True the British possessed no bases comparable to those the Nazis had in Norway, Holland, Belgium, and France, but at least some satisfaction could be found in reading of the strikes at Berlin, Mannheim, and Bremen. And real damage could be steadily inflicted on the invasion ports of the Low Countries and France that might be used as a starting point for a land and water assault on the British Isles.

The superb showing of the Royal Air Force nullified the vast numerical superiority of the *Luftwaffe*. Again, it was Prime Minister Churchill who voiced the popular opinion: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

The importance to the course of the war of this checking of the Nazi aerial assault cannot be overemphasized. As long as Great Britain remained undefeated, Hitler could not be completely successful; just as England over a century before had thwarted Napoleon, so now Hitler was to be thwarted. As long as Britain's isles remained free, they would be able to serve as a base of operations for a fight for freedom.

Hitler had come close to European victory. But the Battle of Britain had not gone his way.

CHAPTER III

New Fronts

Failure of Hitler to achieve a quick victory in the Battle of Britain forced him to turn to other sections where new fronts could be established. Reasons of strategy, as well as the need for natural resources, caused him to wheel his war machine in the direction of the Mediterranean Sea, the Balkan Peninsula, and the Soviet Union.

The Mediterranean has for many centuries been the scene of conflict between contending powers seeking to control the trade and politics of the surrounding lands. Not alone are the neighboring states such as Italy concerned with the control of the Mediterranean; equally interested are the distant nations that want to use the old Middle Sea for a route for trade. For example, Russia is always on the alert to prevent any nation from endangering her access to the Mediterranean from the Black Sea; and Great Britain jealously guards Gibraltar at the western end of the Mediterranean, Cyprus at the eastern end, and Malta at the halfway point, in order to be sure that the British channel of commerce between England and India will be kept open.

One way for Germany to strike at Britain, then, would be to attempt to cut that "life-line" of empire. North Africa had already been the scene of military activity since the rivals of the British there had been on the move from the time that the Nazis had begun to menace the British Isles. Italy, particularly, had challenged Britain, and the Italian colony of Libya had become a base from which Mussolini planned to extend his own empire at the expense of the British.

Italy had entered the war on the side of its Axis partner, Germany, in the last days of the Battle of France. On June 10, 1940, within two weeks of the date on which France surrendered, Italy abandoned its position as a "non-belligerent ally" of Germany and declared war on the Allies. It was evident that Mussolini felt that he might not be able to profit from the division of conquered Allied territory unless he brought Italy into actual participation in the war. Some of the spoils he sought lay in North and East Africa.

By the end of the summer of 1940, the Italians had massed an array of power in the northern and eastern sections of Africa. Approximately 300,000 men had been concentrated in Libya, and about 200,000 had been gathered in Italian East Africa. To supplement these ground troops, a considerable air force, using bases in Sicily and Libya, was in constant operation. Axis air power had succeeded in driving British merchant ships out of the Mediterranean, and England's supply ships to Egypt were having to round the southern tip of Africa at the Cape of Good Hope. Thus thirteen weeks were added to the length of time it took to complete the voyage. Then to make matters worse the Italians in East Africa seized areas of British Kenya and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, conquered British Somaliland, and thereby threatened the use of the Red Sea by Allied ships.

Finally, on September 13, 1940, the Italians opened a drive from Libya which it was hoped would carry them through Egypt and on to the Suez Canal. Marshal Graziani's attack went well until the Italians reached Sidi Barrani across the Egyptian frontier, but at that point the Italians came to a halt and remained inactive for three months.

When active fighting was renewed in Egypt, it was the British, under the command of General Sir Archibald Wavell, that held the initiative. The British launched a surprise attack on December 9 against the Italians' southern flank outside of Sidi Barrani, and for weeks thereafter armored and motorized units of the British kept the Italians on the verge of disaster. The main Fascist force was thrown back five hundred miles across the deserts of Egypt and Cyrenaica, and British patrols stabbed deep into the heart of Libya. By February 8, 1941, General Wavell's army had captured El Agheila in Libya. With only 33,000 men the British general took 133,000 prisoners and captured 420 tanks and 1,300 guns. Wavell, in this fashion, proved that Allied commanders could also master the technique of *blitzkrieg*.

Other British forces were ordered by General Wavell to open a drive against Italian troops holding territories in East Africa. Throughout 1941 the struggle continued. By spring Somaliland had been recovered, Italian Eritrea had been seized, and Ethiopia had been freed. By the end of the year the last pockets of Italian resistance in East Africa had been eliminated. German aid at this point was the only factor that saved the Italian African Empire from immediate extinction.

In other sections of Africa and of the Near East, Allied energies had to be devoted to a considerable variety of military actions. At the time of the fall of France and the ensuing establishment of the Petain government at Vichy, a great deal of concern had been shown by Axis and Allies alike over the control of the colonies of France. Equally pressing was the problem of the management of the French fleet. With so much military activity in North and East Africa, interest in the French fleet and the French colonies naturally began to run higher than ever.

The issue of the French fleet was partially settled in July, 1940, when the British took such steps as were deemed necessary to keep the French vessels from falling into German hands. Surrender of the French fleet to Hitler would have taken from England the one advantage she still held in her death struggle with Germany. Consequently in all ports where French craft were stationed, British seamen on July 3 seized or sank as much of the French navy as could be reached. In the British Isles two battleships, two light cruisers, submarines, and some two hundred minesweepers and anti-submarine chasers were boarded. In the Mediterranean, warships at Alexandria surrendered without offering too much opposition, but a tremendous naval engagement occurred between the fleets of the former allies in the bay of Oran on the Algerian coast. In the Battle of Oran three of four French capital ships were sunk, and only one, the *Strasbourg*, managed to make good its escape to France.

The "Free French," organized and led by General de Gaulle, did everything within their power to turn the colonies against the Vichy government. At times the Free French joined with the British and engaged in open battle with the Vichy French, the most notable occasion being at Dakar in September, 1940.

Dakar was a French stronghold in West Africa, defended by strong shore batteries and some naval units, including the powerful *Richelieu*, stationed in the harbor. A British fleet and a large contingent of Free French made the attack, but Dakar's defenses were too strong. After three days of futile and costly effort, the attempt to storm the prized port had to be abandoned. Allied failure was attributed to the refusal of the residents of Dakar to rally to the leadership of General de Gaulle.

Collaboration between the British and the Free French was more successful in Syria, but again Vichy French resistance within the colony exceeded Allied expectations. In time, however, Syria was overrun by the Allies. Surprisingly the Axis allowed Syria to fall without making any attempt to send aid. On July 12, 1941, British control of the area was recognized.

Meanwhile, the Nazis had not failed to be alert to the importance of the struggle in North Africa. The defeat of the Italians at the hands of Wavell's British columns made it necessary that Germany take an active part in the campaign. By the spring of 1941, the Germans had flown enough men and supplies across the Mediterranean to launch an offensive of their own.

On March 24, 1941, the German *Afrika Korps* struck. The commander of this force, General Erwin Rommel, was then a comparative unknown, but in time he was to be recognized as one of the most resourceful of Nazi marshals. He chose his time of attack well, at a time when the British were heavily involved in the Balkans and in East Africa; and since his men and *materiel* had been flown to Tripoli in secret, the all-out offensive was a complete surprise. General Wavell's depleted army proved to be no match for the *Afrika Korps*. All British bases in Libya, wrested from the Italians two months before, had to be abandoned. By the middle of May, the British had retreated again to the Egyptian frontier; only at Tobruk did a courageous British garrison hold out against the Nazis. Rommel might have swept across Egypt to Suez had not the Berlin High Command refused to send reinforcements.

This time it was the Nazis who were too concerned with events in Europe to have enough men for an African campaign. Hitler had thrown his armies against the Soviet Union and he had no men to spare for Rommel. The British were not slow to take advantage.

General Sir Claude Auchinleck, successor to General Wavell as leader of the British African forces, opened his attack from his Egyptian bases on November 17, 1941. Rommel's resistance was so formidable that the British were compelled to pay heavily in casualties for all ground gained. By January 7, 1942, the British had succeeded in retaking El Agheila, but pockets of enemy troops still remained besieged far behind the British lines. Within a month, however, Rommel had counter-attacked and had driven the English out of El Agheila back to El Gazala. Auchinleck's costly offensive had achieved no lasting victory for the British cause in North Africa.

Across the Mediterranean in Southern Europe, the course of the war had been disastrous for the British. In the Balkan Peninsula the Nazis had been able to have their way, regardless of the amount of opposition. More often than not there had been no opposition at all.

In Hitler's gospel of Naziism, *Mein Kampf*, the Fuehrer revealed that he was the inheritor and protagonist of the long-standing Pan-German doctrine of a *Drang nach Osten* or "Drive to the East." He envisioned a mighty German empire stretching from the Baltic Sea to the Black, an empire which would include in addition to Germany, the nations of Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, and the Russian Ukraine. Hitler sooner or later, therefore, was bound to turn to the Balkans in order to make that drive to the East which would make his dream of a great empire a reality.

Some of the Balkan states became more or less willing collaborators with the Axis. Hungary, Bulgaria and Rumania had economic tie-ups with Germany; and since fascist factions were already strong in each land, their leaders allowed them to be drawn into an Axis alliance. They were all impressed with German victories in Western Europe, and all thereafter were guilty of unneutral acts that caused Great Britain to break off diplomatic relations with each of them.

The nature of the pressure placed on these small states of the Balkans actually left them no other course than to make hopeless war or to allow themselves to be drawn into the Hitler orbit. Rumania, for example, held off from joining the Axis while Russia seized one province, Bessarabia, and the Nazi Foreign Minister Ribbentrop handed over another, Transylvania, to Hungary. Finally, to save what was left, Rumania's desperate diplomats joined with the Axis.

Two of the Balkan states, however, chose the course of hopeless war rather than to permit the Axis to have its way unopposed. Yugoslavia fought against the Nazis, and Greece struggled against both Italians and Germans. It is probable that neither the Greeks nor the Yugoslavs were greater lovers of freedom or more ardent nationalists than their neighbors; it is likely that each was simply more astute in picking the ultimate victors in World War II. Nevertheless, the stand of Grece and Yugoslavia was a splendid tribute to the courage of their people.

Greece was the first to be forced into the war. Once Mussolini had established himself on the eastern shores of the Adriatic at the expense of Albania, the Greeks began to brace themselves against attack. Italian propagandists paved the way for this new aggression by publishing charges that the Greeks were permitting the British fleet to use their ports. At last, on October 28, 1940, the Italian government demanded, as a guarantee that the Greeks had no intention of cooperating with the British, that Italian troops be allowed to occupy key positions in Greece until the end of the war. The answer of tough old Premier Metaxas to this ultimatum was to mobilize the Greek army. Italian forces promptly violated the Albanian-Greek border.

Within two weeks it was clear that the Fascists were to have their hands full with the Greeks. The Greeks were badly outnumbered, they were lacking in mechanized equipment, their air force was wholly inadequate, but they fought with courage, and they knew well the mountains in which the campaign was conducted. As the war ran on into the winter, the superior ability of the small Greek mountain army enabled the defenders to take 30,000 prisoners and drive the Italians back to Albanian soil.

Yet fate did not decree that the Greeks were to remain triumphant for very long. A heavy blow was dealt them when on January 29, 1941, Premier Metaxas died. Then two months later German legions moved in to bolster the faltering Italian cause.

Thereafter, in spite of Prime Minister Churchill's moving some 60,000 of Wavell's desert troops across the Mediterranean from Libya to aid the Greeks, the Nazis swept all opposition aside. On the fourth day of *blitzkrieg*, the strategic city of Salonika was in German control, and by that action the Nazis split the Greek armies in two. Athens fell to the Germans before the first month of warfare had ended.

Again the British were compelled to withdraw by sea from an untenable position in a fashion reminiscent of the Dunkirk retreat. Forced out of historic Thermopylae, the British made their way across the Gulf of Corinth to the isle of Crete. Against that stronghold the Germans opened a vigorous air assault; from May 4, 1941, to May 29, 1941, the attack continued. In what was felt by many to be a dress rehearsal for a Nazi invasion of the British Isles, the Germans used paratroops, glider-borne forces, and heavy aerial bombardment to bring Crete to terms. The British withdrew yet another time; on this occasion to Egypt. Never had Allied prestige fallen so low. The Nazis had, at least temporarily, made good Von Ribbentrop's boast made at the opening of the Greek struggle: "The German Armies will make it clear once and for all to Churchill and his notorious war-mongering, intriguing allies that Great Britain has no chance in Europe."

As an adjunct to the Greek campaign, the Nazis had simultaneously made war on a second non-cooperative Balkan state, Yugoslavia. Prior to the actual outbreak of hostilities the German government had followed its customary practice of bringing pressure to bear on Yugoslav leaders in an attempt to force them to yield without fighting. The leaders did at last give in but the people did not. When Premier Cvetkovitch announced that he and his cabinet had signed a pact with the Axis, a popular uprising drove from power not only the ministry but also the Prince Regent who had been acting for the youthful King Peter I. Peter was installed as ruler in his own right and a new prime minister and cabinet took charge.

Immediately the Germans retaliated by attacking, on April 6, Belgrade without a declaration of war. The Yugoslavs fought back with courage in an uneven struggle that could have had only one outcome. Yugoslavia was surrounded by neighbors that had offered no resistance to Hitler's demands, and from each of those adjoining jackal states German armies poured into Yugoslavia. From Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Rumania came thirty-three Nazi divisions with the usual complement of mechanized and aerial forces. The Battle of Yugoslavia lasted only ten days.

The Germans, on April 17, declared that all Yugoslav resistance had ceased, but events were to prove that the announcement was far from the truth. The formal capitulation of the defenders had in fact taken place, but active fighting was to continue in Yugoslavia for the remainder of the war. Two guerrilla leaders, General Mikhailovitch and Marshal Tito, kept resistance to the Nazis alive, and more effective opposition might have been afforded had the two chieftains and their bands fought less with each other and more with the Germans.

The Germans, having overrun the Balkans, could now turn to other matters. The subjugation of Yugoslavia, however, was to prove to be Hitler's last conquest. His armies were still to win many great victories, but never again was the campaign for a whole nation to be counted as a Nazi victory. The Battle of Russia, soon to begin, was to become in time the Battle of Germany.

The struggle with Germany was not the first contact that the Soviet Union had made with the Second World War. In occupying their share of Poland, the Russians had fought minor engagements, and in a conflict with Finland they had been compelled to fight a surprisingly difficult foe. During the period of the "phony war," Russia had forced concessions from the Finns but only after a conflict of three months duration. Those two acts of aggression, coupled with the pact with Germany, served to make the democratic world look on Russia as a full-fledged member of the Axis.

The German invasion of the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, demonstrated that Russia had been an Axis partner in name only. Negotiating the pact with Russia had been an advantage to Hitler since its promulgation was bound to create a stunning surprise in England and France on the eve of the invasion of Poland. The Russians probably expected to gain nothing from the arrangement except additional time in which to rearm; and doubtless Russian leaders, angered at the Chamberlain regime's pointed lack of interest in a Soviet alliance, derived some satisfaction in observing the dismay of the English and French. Yet both Joseph Stalin and Adolf Hitler understood that their treaty did not mitigate the differences in Nazi and Communist ideologies and did not eliminate the Ukraine from the *Drang nach Osten.*

The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, with its population of 180,000,000 and its area which covered one-sixth of the earth's surface, was a constant threat to the military strategy of Nazi Germany. The eastern frontier of Germany lay exposed to the Russians at any time they chose to disregard their treaty obligations. And conflicting ambitions of the two powers, especially in the Baltic and Balkan areas, gave the Germans an understanding of just how unstable the non-aggression pact was and of how that eastern border might some day become their major problem.

Moreover, the natural wealth of Russia served as an ever-present temptation. The conqueror of the Soviet Union would gain the oil of the Caucasus, the wheat of the Ukraine, and the mines of the Ural area, to say nothing of the easy access to Turkey and the riches of the East. Hitler's *Mein Kampf* had dwelt upon these matters long ago, and his speeches continued to reiterate an interest in the acquisition of the region. "If the Urals," he once said before the outbreak of war, "with their immeasurable treasure of raw materials, Siberia, with its rich forests, and the Ukraine, with its limitless grain fields, were to lie in Germany, this country under National Socialist leadership would swim in plenty."

At the time of their declaration of war against Russia, the Germans, while not desperate, were at a point where vast stores of resources could be seen as an essential to continued success in the war. The air *blitz* of England had failed, and it was clear that if Britain was to be beaten, the prerequisite to ultimate victory, then the British Isles would have to be invaded. Such a prodigious undertaking could not be embarked upon unless the Nazis were certain of a free hand on the continent.

In the blockade and counter-blockade contest between the British fleet and the German submarine and air forces, the Nazis found the British gradually drawing ahead. Victory in the Battle of the Atlantic was proving as elusive for Hitler as was success in the Battle of England. And loss of the Battle of the Atlantic brought Hitler face to face with the danger of the same sort of strangling blockade that had defeated Germany in World War I.

All of these matters must have been studied by Hitler and the German High Command for many months before the decision was reached to attack Russia. Doubtless among the factors influencing the German leaders was the knowledge that Russia was growing more ready to challenge them with each passing month. Joseph Stalin was able to announce on January 1, 1941, that the Soviet was totally mobilized, and the following month he revealed that one-third of the national budget was earmarked for defense.

Since the beginning of the war in September, 1939, Russia had materially improved its defensive position. She had overrun eastern Poland, she had absorbed the Baltic states, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia, she had established a base on the Gulf of Finland at the expense of the Finns, and she had taken Bessarabia from Rumania. The excuse offered in each instance was that the territory seized had belonged to Russia before the First World War, that the Soviet Union was simply reclaiming its own. Yet each annexation created new suspicion among the Nazi leaders.

Other Russian acts were overtly unfriendly to Germany. In the Balkans, Soviet diplomacy openly sought to check German advances. On several occasions when Hungary and Bulgaria gave aid to Germany, the Soviet Union made plain its displeasure. Pointedly the Russians announced the signing of a treaty of non-aggression with Yugoslavia on April 5, 1941, the day before Germany invaded that helpless nation.

Historians may later be able to answer, in the light of more complete information from within the Nazi inner circle, the question of the High Command's real estimate of the strengths and weaknesses of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. Some American observers, for example, erroneously interpreted the Communist "blood purges" of anti-Stalin leaders as a sign of Russian party disintegration. Other American publicists were equally misinformed about Russia's industrial strength; one scholarly journal wrote in its January, 1941, issue: "Hitler need have no fear of an assault from a Russia in which, as he knows from the German specialists who have been working in the U.S.S.R. since the signing of the Russo-Soviet Pact, industry and transport are in a state approaching chaos. Russia is much too weak economically and politically to challenge Germany." One wonders whether Hitler misinterpreted, as did "experts" the world over, Russia's blundering campaign against Finland. Did Hitler agree with the "experts" that Russia would be beaten in a few months?

Whatever may have been Hitler's estimate of Russia's power to wage war, he ordered Nazi armies into action against the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941. This time Germany chose to issue a declaration of war, citing the Soviet seizures in Finland and along the Baltic, the steady Communist campaign against the *Reich*, and frequent Russian violations of the frontier. "The task," he concluded, "is to safeguard Europe and thus save all."

If Germany's declaration of war was intended as a play for Allied sympathy, the reaction in the British Empire must have been a bitter disappointment. Immediately Winston Churchill declared that Russia's danger was Britain's danger. Without reservation the traditional policy of distrust of Communism was set aside, and all aid possible for the Soviet Union was promised.

In one day the entire two thousand-mile front from the Baltic to the Black was aflame. Three days later Finland joined with Germany against Russia, so that thereafter the fighting front extended over three thousand miles from the Barents Sea to the Black, from Murmansk to Sevastopol. The Axis used three million men in six armies, while the Soviet had fifteen million men from whom to draw. It was to prove to be one of the titanic struggles of history.

The German High Command chose three Russian key cities towards which to direct their first attacks: Leningrad, Moscow, and Kiev. For the northern offensive against Leningrad, Field Marshal von Lieb was chosen as commander. Field Marshal von Bock was in charge of the army of the center which stormed toward Moscow. Field Marshal von Rundstedt led the southern forces against Kiev. The Soviet defenders included Marshal Voroshilov at Leningrad, Marshal Timoshenko at Moscow, and Marshal Budenny at Kiev.

From June until the first of December, 1941, the Germans' advances were so sweeping that it began to appear that those who had predicted a speedy Nazi victory would be proved accurate in their estimate. By July Smolensk, a city vital to the defense of Moscow, had fallen into German hands, Novgorod, only seventy miles south of Leningrad, was captured on August 21, and Leningrad was soon virtually encircled. One of the three major objectives, Kiev, was reported as a Nazi prize on September 19.

The loss of Kiev meant that the whole of the Ukraine was lost to the Russians. German columns swept on to the Sea of Azov and invested the Crimean Peninsula. By the middle of November the siege of Sevastopol, a Soviet bastion at the southern tip of Crimea, had begun. Other great cities of the region which were overrun by the Germans in this southern offensive were Odessa, on October 16, and Kharkov, on October 24. By November 22, the Germans had captured Rostov, an advance of nearly six hundred miles since the beginning of the Battle of Russia.

Despite these German successes, however, the Russians were far from being the beaten nation that Adolf Hitler described in a message to his people on October 3: "The enemy is already broken and will never rise again." Severe as the losses of the Soviet Union had been, Hitler's pronouncement failed to measure correctly the vast distances involved, the severe climate to be encountered, and the undaunted spirit of the people he was attempting to defeat.

The grim courage of the Russian defenders kept resistance alive even behind the Nazi lines. Troops facing the invaders were on the whole well led, well disciplined, and thoroughly loyal. Doubts of outsiders as to the strength of the Stalin regime were soon proved to be groundless by the unhesitating obedience to the orders of the administration. Only a united people would have heeded Stalin's appeal for a "scorched earth" policy; great projects, such as the Dnieperstroi dam, and small, such as the smallest of grain fields, were destroyed so that nothing would be left to the conqueror. It was a costly policy, but the Soviet Union was great both in size and in purpose. Heroic measures stopped the Germans short of victory in 1941. Succeeding years were to see help brought from Britain and the United States, and thus those early sacrifices were not to be in vain.

In each of the new fronts opened by Hitler in 1941, many initial successes were scored. The North African campaign had resulted in victories for both the Allies and Axis, but the depleted British forces seemed at the end of the year to be in no position to stand against Rommel's *Afrika Korps*. In the Balkans, the Nazis had been completely successful; they could call the entire peninsula their own, with only guerrilla bands holding out against them. The Battle of Russia, by December, 1941, was proving to be the most taxing struggle of all for the Germans, but the number of important Soviet cities under German control demonstrated the enormous amount of Russian territory that had been overrun.

This was the course of the Second World War in Europe prior to the entry of the United States in the conflict. These were the Allies, both fighting and fallen. These were the campaigns in which they had been engaged in Europe for over two years before war came to America. This was the desperate position of the Allies on the eve of Christmas in 1941. This was the war into which America was drawn by the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

CHAPTER IV

The United States At War

Within America, all of the events of the Second World War that had transpired from the invasion of Poland to the invasion of Russia produced an instant reaction. Crises in Europe from the fall of France to the siege of Moscow had intensified the public sentiment that had been with the Allies from the start, and the official attitude of the Washington administration had reflected that pro-Allied point of view. The greater the need of the Allies, the greater was the aid granted them by America, and by the autumn of 1941 the national government had adopted measures short of belligerency.

Active participation in World War II on the part of the United States, however, was to be brought about by another means than a European crisis. While the majority of Americans had expected some incident in Europe, such as the sinking of an American vessel, to lead to the involvement of the United States, it was in the Pacific theatre of war that events were occurring that were hurrying the nation toward war.

War in Asia had begun between China and Japan in 1937, and two years later, when Japan had become an Axis partner, that conflict had merged with the European phase of World War II. The causes and course of that Sino-Japanese War are essential segments of the story of the Second World War. Without an understanding of them, it would be impossible to comprehend the reasons for the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

The first nation to demonstrate the impotence of the League of Nations was Japan. Hitler did not rise to power in Germany until two years after the Japanese had defied the League by seizing territory from China in 1931. The origin of the Second World War might be traced, therefore, to the Mukden Incident and the subsequent Japanese conquest of Manchuria nearly a decade before war started in Europe.

The Japanese attack on Manchuria in 1931 was but one of a long series of efforts to dismember the Chinese Empire. China, with its vast land mass, its wealth of natural resources, and its teeming population, was a rich prize for which the European nations had contended for centuries. Lacking a strong central government and devoid of any strong sense of nationalistic feeling, China proved an easy prey for the aggressors.

It was inevitable that China's island neighbor, Japan, would observe the method employed by the European powers in obtaining concessions and would in turn seek territories for herself. In 1894 Japan made war on China, and the ease with which the Chinese were brought to terms revealed the complete helplessness of the "Celestial Empire." The success of the Japanese was especially remarkable in view of the fact that Japan had been opened to modern western methods and industrialization by the voyages of Commodore Perry only forty years before. The methodology of western imperialism and conquest the Japanese mastered quickly.

Thereafter Japan was to be the most aggressive advocate of the partitioning of the territories of the "sick man of Asia." Korea, because it offered the readiest access to the mainland, and Manchuria, because it possessed the richest resources, were the lands which attracted the initial attention of the Japanese.

Korea had been the prize sought by Japan in the war of 1894-1895, and one of the peace terms the victors secured at the conclusion of the war was the recognition by China of Korean independence. With the tie between China and Korea severed, Japan could bide its time until Korea could be annexed outright. That step was taken in 1910.

The European nation which most actively opposed the expansion of the Japanese Empire was Russia. Russia's lands reached out from Europe across to Manchuria, and as a neighbor of Japan, Russia, for reasons of both ambition and fear, was unwilling to acquiesce in any territorial changes in that region.

The clashing imperialistic interests of Russia and Japan led to the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905. In this struggle between David and Goliath, David was prepared and Goliath was not, and as a result the Japanese enjoyed an uninterrupted series of victories. In the Treaty of Portsmouth closing the war, the Russians were forced to recognize the hegemony of Japan in the Manchuria-Korea area.

Once Korea was pocketed in 1910, the Japanese again awaited a favorable opportunity to obtain the second of its principal objectives. Up to that time, Japan had acquired for its empire, in addition to Korea, the island of Formosa, half of the island of Sakhalin, Port Arthur, and the Liaotung Peninsula. American and European hostility might have been aroused if the Japanese leaders had moved into Manchuria immediately, and too much opposition at that stage might have imperiled the ambitious new empire.

The leaders of the United States, however, showed no desire in that period to have the Japanese drive for a strong empire halted. The passive attitude of America is perhaps best illustrated by Secretary of State Lansing's words in 1917: "The Governments of the United States and Japan recognize that territorial propinquity creates special relations between countries, and, consequently, the Government of the United States recognizes that Japan has special interests in China, particularly in the part to which her possessions are contiguous."

Japan was too busy in the next two decades with the consolidation of her already extensive gains and with the problems arising from the First World War to reach out for new lands that were part of her "special interests in China." Then in the 1920's two developments began to threaten the Japanese design. First, there was the united effort of the nations of the world to achieve international peace through written agreements such as the Kellogg-Briand Pact and the Nine Power Treaty. Second, there arose within China, under the leadership of Chiang Kai-shek, a National Government which made tremendous strides toward the goal of a unified, centralized administration sought by patriotic Chinese for many years.

In 1931 Japan's imperialist leaders acted before Chiang Kai-shek's National Government had had time to achieve unity. Despite the fact that Japan was a signatory to the Kellogg-Briand Pact outlawing war and to the Nine Power Pact guaranteeing the territorial integrity of China, the Japanese in 1931 conquered Manchuria and over the feeble protests of the League of Nations established its suzerainty over the redesignated puppet state of Manchukuo.

After the invasion of Manchuria the Japanese never actually ceased their war on China until the Second World War came to an end. In 1933 the province of Jehol was annexed to Manchukuo, 100,000 square miles of territory thus being acquired in a ten-day campaign. During the next years mounting pressure was applied to the Chinese government for the recognition of the independence of five provinces of North China. This war of nerves, while not wholly successful, was having the desired effect at the time that a full-scale war between China and Japan broke out.

On July 7, 1937, at the Marco Polo Bridge near the Chinese city of Peiping a skirmish between Japanese and Chinese soldiers began the "China Incident." This "incident" appears to have been planned by the Japanese as a climax to their war of nerves on North China; this shooting scrape between rival patrols was to be but a prelude to the seizure of the northern provinces. Yet the conquest proved more difficult than had been expected and the incident became an international war.

The stand of the Chinese against the Japanese invader is one of the heroic episodes of history. With the aid of overwhelming sea power, the Japanese quickly took possession of the coastal area and the principal port cities and extended their control into the interior along the Yangtze River. The Nationalist armies, however, made their stand in the hilly area west of the Peiping-Canton line, where the Japanese motorized equipment and air power would be of smallest value. There Chiang Kai-shek pursued a Fabian campaign which he called "magnetic warfare." Every major Japanese attack would be countered by a Chinese retreat into the interior, the Japanese being drawn along as if by a magnet. In this way, the Japanese were scattered over a wide area where Chinese guerrillas could operate against them to best advantage. Thus in spite of a Japanese war of terror, a war of rapine and pillage and murder, the Chinese will to resist not only survived but grew stronger with each long harrowing year.

Through two years and three months of troubled neutrality the people of the United States had watched World War II in Europe, and for four years and five months they had followed its course in Asia. During the years of crisis preceding the start of the war, American determination to stay out of foreign conflicts had permeated the written and spoken words of the nation's leaders. After the outbreak of hostilities, the policy of neutrality was by degrees abandoned in favor of a program of aid to the Allies. In the end it was again proved that isolation for America, whether geographic, or economic, or political, was a *modus operandi* of foreign policy that had gone out of fashion with the passing of sailing craft.

Before that lesson was learned, however, the Congress of the United States between 1935 and 1937 sought to guarantee peace by the enactment of a series of "Neutrality Acts." Munitions, it was decreed, were not to be shipped to nations at war. Belligerents were to trade in America only on a "cash and carry" basis. Loans to warring states were forbidden. By these measures, proponents argued, the United States would be able to avoid the mistakes that had drawn the nation into the First World War.

Events of the next few years were to make this position of strict neutrality untenable. The Sino-Japanese War, for example, demonstrated the fallacy of the cash and carry scheme; for the Japanese with their navy in control of the China coast could guarantee safe passage for their own ships loaded with American goods, suppressing at the same time all Chinese trade with the United States. Cash and carry put the United States into partnership with Japan.

Similarly the neutrality acts were an advantage to Germany in the European theatre. Great Britain's pre-war preparations had been directed toward building a large navy. Any limitations on seagoing traffic would limit, at least to a degree, the British use of

their best weapon. American restrictions on trade, therefore, were bound to be harmful to Britain and helpful to Germany.

Faced with the fact that the American stay-at-home policy was proving beneficial to the Axis, the people of the United States began to urge a modification of neutrality legislation. As rapidly thereafter as public opinion would permit, the retreat from neutrality continued.

The public statements of President Roosevelt helped guide the people away from isolation. In October, 1937, shortly after Japan had invaded China, the President made an address in Chicago in which he advocated the quarantining of aggressor nations. More pointed and more urgent were his comments as the war in Europe approached, as Poland was invaded, as the Axis forces monotonously won victories. Even in the period of Allied complacency prior to the Nazi spring offensive of 1940, the President counseled a stiffening of American policy. Before the houses of Congress in 1939, he barely stopped short of denouncing the Axis nations by name:

> "There comes a time in the affairs of men when they must prepare to defend not their homes alone, but the tenets of faith and humanity on which their churches, their governments and their very civilization are founded. . . . We know what might happen to us if the new philosophy of force were to encompass the other continents and invade our own. We, no more than other nations, can afford to be surrounded by the enemies of our faith and our humanity. The world has grown so small and weapons of attack so swift that no nation can be safe in its will to peace so long as any other single powerful nation refuses to settle its grievances at the council table."

Modification of the neutrality laws, however, was not easy to secure. The President's appeal for a removal of the arms embargo on the eve of the invasion of Poland went unheeded by Congress. A similar request of September 21, 1939, launched a bitter partisan debate that was still in progress when France capitulated the following summer. Yet the Nazi successes in Norway, Holland, Belgium, and France brought about an abrupt change in the American attitude. That change the President reflected in an address in June, 1940, at Charlottesville, Virginia: "Let us not hesitate—all of us—to proclaim certain truths. Overwhelmingly we, as a nation—and this applies to all the other American nations—are convinced that military and naval victory for the gods of force and hate would endanger the institutions of democracy in the Western world. . . . In our unity, our American unity, we will pursue two obvious and simultaneous courses: we will extend to the opponents of force the material resources of the nation and at the same time we will harness and speed up the use of those resources in order that we, ourselves, in the Americas may have equipment and training equal to the task of any emergency and every defense."

Legislative and executive actions were soon suited to the President's words. A Selective Service Law was passed, setting up the nation's first peacetime draft. In the summer of 1940 ten billion dollars were appropriated for national defense. On September 3 announcement was made of a trade by which Great Britain yielded bases in Newfoundland, in Bermuda, and in the Caribbean to the United States and received in return from the American navy fifty sorely needed destroyers, conveniently declared to be "overage." And throughout the year 1941, the President, the Congress, and the people devoted most of their thought and energy to matters of foreign policy and national defense.

As the Seventy-seventh Congress began its session shortly after the opening of the fateful year of 1941, President Roosevelt went in person to deliver an address calling for "full support of all those resolute peoples everywhere, who are resisting aggression and are thereby keeping war away from our hemisphere." He outlined "the four essential human freedoms" as freedom of speech and worship and freedom from want and fear and urged that America do its part to establish those freedoms by acting as an arsenal for democracy. The Allies, he said, did not need man power. "They do need billions of dollars worth of the weapons of defense. The time is near when they will not be able to pay for them in ready cash. We cannot, and we will not, tell them they must surrender merely because of present inability to pay for the weapons which we know they must have. . . . I recommend that we make it possible for those nations to continue to obtain war materials in the United States, fitting their orders into our own progress."

The President in his message was proposing to substitute a policy of lend and lease for the policy of cash and carry. Although Lend-Lease was described by the administration as "short of war," it nevertheless amounted to a war by proxy with Britain serving as the American agent in the struggle against the Axis. Prime Minister Churchill, in a London broadcast, indicated that he would welcome the opportunity to act as the American proxy. "We do not need the gallant armies which are forming throughout the American Union," he insisted. "We do not need them this year, nor the next year nor any year that I can foresee. But we do need most urgently an immense and continuous supply of war materials and technical apparatus of all kinds. . . . Put your confidence in us. Give us your faith and your blessing, and under Providence all will be well. We shall not fail or falter; we shall not weaken or tire. Neither the sudden shock of battle nor the long-drawn trials of vigilance and exertion will wear us down. Give us the tools and we will finish the job."

For two months the debate on the Lend-Lease proposal raged in Congress. The opposition, led by Senator Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri, Senator Gerald P. Nye of North Dakota, Senator Robert A. Taft of Ohio, and Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, was bitter in denunciation of both the bill and its proponents. Senator Clark spoke for all of them when he declared: "It is simply a bill to authorize the President to declare war . . . and to establish a totalitarian government."

Another opponent of Lend-Lease was Adolf Hitler. In a Berlin address, the Fuehrer warned the United States that every ship bearing aid to Britain that came within range of German torpedo tubes would be sunk. Despite all opposition, however, the Lend-Lease Bill was passed and on March 11 received the approval of the President. Shortly thereafter seven billion dollars were appropriated to make the "arsenal of democracy" a reality.

The passage of the Lend-Lease Act marked a pronounced change in the traditional American policy of isolation. It was a recognition of the fact that neutrality in a modern world war is impossible. It was proof, moreover, that the majority of the Congressional representatives of the American people agreed with the President's assertion that democracy itself cannot survive in isolation. Lip service was paid to neutrality by professions that Lend-Lease was a measure short of war, but no prophet was required to foresee that the purpose of the law, to put the weapons of war into Allied hands, would call for acts that would not be short of war. Lend-Lease made the United States the non-belligerent ally of Great Britain.

Within a few weeks Administration spokesmen, in the Cabinet and in Congress, began to talk of a naval convoy for merchant ships to Britain and began to urge the repeal of the remaining sections of the Neutrality Act. On May 27 President Roosevelt proclaimed a state of emergency and called for all to be prepared to repel attack. "We will not accept a Hitler-dominated world," he declared.

To that end American fighting ships were sent out on neutrality patrol to try to prevent Nazi vessels from entering the waters of the Western Hemisphere. The boundaries of the Western Hemisphere, moreover, were extended considerably by the establishment of naval and air bases on Greenland in April and on Iceland in July and the occupation of those lands by American troops.

Questions arising out of the administration of Lend-Lease were multiplied many times over by the German invasion of Russia in June. The unpopularity of Russia's Communistic system, coupled with the Soviet's earlier attacks on Poland and Finland, caused many in America to oppose the granting of aid to Russia. President Roosevelt, however, promptly extended the benefits of Lend-Lease to the Soviet Union, apparently taking the point of view that with the menace of Hitler more pressing than the menace of Communism he would settle with the Nazi host first.

If other evidence was needed that the United States had moved far from its traditional isolation, it was furnished by a dramatic meeting between President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill on shipboard in the North Atlantic in August. There the two leaders drew up a program for peace, known thereafter as the "Atlantic Charter." In this declaration of common principles, they asserted that they sought no territorial aggrandizement, promised that the wishes of the people of all lands would be adhered to in drawing up boundaries and in selecting forms of government, agreed on principles of economic collaboration and the freeing of raw materials to all nations, envisioned a peace that would be perpetuated by the establishment of a "permanent system of general security." Thus by a remarkable extension of his executive authority, the President had virtually allied with Britain in a crusade for his four freedoms, the Senate to the contrary notwithstanding.

Additional fighting words were used by the President in a challenging Labor Day broadcast on September 1. He stated his belief that our fundamental rights had been "threatened by Hitler's violent attempt to rule the world." "The task of defeating Hitler may be long and arduous," he added. "There are a few appeasers and Nazi sympathizers who say it cannot be done. They even ask me to negotiate with Hitler—to pray for crumbs from his victorious table. They do, in fact, ask me to become a modern Benedict Arnold and betray all that I hold dear—my devotion to our freedom—to our churches—to our country. This course I have rejected—I reject it again. Instead, I know that I speak the conscience and determination of the American people when I say that we shall do everything in our power to crush Hitler and his Nazi forces."

The President's words indicate that he no longer considered this country to be at peace with Germany. Since summer as a matter of fact, a "shooting war" had been in progress between the naval forces of the two nations. On May 21 an American ship, the *Robin Moor*, was sunk in the South Atlantic by German submarine action; and three weeks later a United States naval vessel, on patrol duty off Iceland, retaliated by dropping depth charges on a German submarine which had attacked a British convoy. A similar brush between the two navies occurred near Iceland on September 4 when the destroyer *Greer* and a Nazi submarine traded blows.

President Roosevelt immediately made it known he had issued

a shoot-on-sight order to the American navy. The President asserted Germany had begun a "campaign to rule the seas by ruthless force, and he promised that the ships of any flag engaged in commerce in this hemisphere would be protected. "From now on," he warned, "if German or Italian vessels of war enter the waters the protection of which is necessary for American defense, they do so at their own peril." An informal naval war was thereby announced.

A month later the President sent a message to Congress requesting the repeal of that section of the Neutrality Act which forbade the arming of American merchant vessels. Only by such an action could the true intent of the Lend-Lease Act be carried out, the President declared. In the midst of the discussion on this proposal, the United States Navy again announced losses; the destroyer *Kearny* was damaged by a torpedo and the destroyer *Reuben James* was sunk at a cost of one hundred American lives. Yet the Presidential resolution for armament was passed in the House by the slim margin of 212 to 194.

This close vote for the repeal of the Neutrality Act reflected a surprising division of public opinion less than four weeks prior to the outbreak of war. In August, moreover, an even closer vote, 203-202, was recorded by the House in favor of the extension of the length of service of those drafted for a year of military training. The strength of the anti-war group in Congress in the face of tension and crisis makes it doubtful whether anything short of an act of flagrant aggression would have aroused the American people sufficiently to permit the nation to be led into a declaration of war.

That flagrant act was performed by Japan on December 7, Yet up to that time the people of the United States had paid little heed to Asia; Hitler's armies and submarines had received most of the nation's attention. An examination of newspapers throughout 1941 will show only a fraction of the space given over to a discussion of the growing tension between the United States and Germany devoted to the events that were bringing the nation to the verge of war with Japan.

On the whole there were fewer incidents in the Far East to record. Whereas Germany sank thirteen American-owned merchant ships with the loss of 71 lives and one destroyer with the loss of a hundred lives, Japan engaged in no naval raids on American shipping. Merchant vessels of the United States destined for Pacific ports were not armed despite the repeal of the Neutrality Act.

Occasionally a news item would bear import of impending trouble in the Far East. On February 20, 1941, for example, General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the Army, was reported to have told a secret session of the Military Affairs Committee of the Senate that the situation in the Far East had grown serious and that planes had been sent to reinforce the air forces in the Pacific. Again in June the dangers latent in the Asiatic war were implied in an address of Paul V. McNutt, a high government official close to the President; he stated that "the time has come to act" against Japan, "a distant temporizing partner of the Axis thuggery." For the most part, however, strained relations between the United States and Japan developed in comparative privacy.

Two actions of Japan prior to December 7, 1941, received more than passing attention. The first was the signing by Japan in September, 1940, of an alliance with Germany and Italy, establishing thereby the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis. Within two weeks the Japanese sought to make capital of the Axis agreement by seeking the lifting of the American embargo placed in July on the export of petroleum and scrap iron; on this occasion the Japanese ambassador made the diplomatic blunder of stating that a continuation of the restrictions might be looked upon as an unfriendly act. Secretary of State Cordell Hull was blunt in his reply: it was "unheard of for a country engaged in aggression and seizure of another country to turn to a third nation and seriously insist that the latter would be guilty of an unfriendly act if it did not cheerfully provide some of the necessary implements of war to aid the aggressor in carrying out its policy of invasion." President Roosevelt publicly supplemented these diplomatic exchanges by serving notice on the Axis: "No combination of dictator countries of Europe and Asia will stop the help we are giving to almost the last free people fighting to hold them at bay. . . . The people of the United States, the people of the Americas, reject the doctrine of appeasement. They recognize it for what it is—a major weapon of the aggressor nations."

The second of the highly publicized Japanese ventures was the invasion of Indo-China. Important bases in the northern part of this French possession had been occupied soon after the fall of France, and a year later German pressure on Vichy had gained for Japan bases in South Indo-China. The Japanese penetration of Indo-China was objectionable to the United States not only because it was indicative of the far-flung nature of Japan's imperialistic ambitions but also because of the direct threat that the new holdings offered to the Philippine Islands. The Philippines lie immediately off the Indo-China coast of Asia, and planes and ships based on the mainland would have easy access to the heart of the islands.

Sumner Welles, then acting as Secretary of State, was bitter in his denunciation of Japan's act. Speaking for the United States, Welles declared that the bases were "primarily for purposes of further and more obvious movements of conquest in adjacent areas." Since the Philippines were endangered by the seizures, the whole matter, according to Welles, bore "directly upon the vital problem of our national security."

The occupation of Indo-China in July, 1941, proved to be a turning point in American-Japanese relations. Until that time the American Administration had engaged in prolonged diplomatic negotiations with Japan in an effort to secure restraint in the Far East while concentrating the nation's naval strength in the Atlantic. Thereafter, while negotiations continued, war preparations were hurried and a more hostile tone with Japan was assumed.

On July 26, by Presidential order, all Japanese assets in the United States were frozen and consequently virtually all trade with Japan came to a standstill. The British took a similar course. Two days later, the Japanese retaliated by freezing American and British assets and referred to the British and American action as "one step from armed warfare." On July 30 the Japanese aroused indignation by bombing the United States gunboat *Tutuila* at Chungking, but Japan's prompt apology was accepted and the incident pronounced closed.

As December drew nearer, warnings of impending trouble between the United States, Britain, and Japan came from public statements of the leaders of the various nations. On October 24, the Secretary of the Navy, Frank Knox, described the situation in the Far East as "extremely strained." "We are satisfied in our minds," he added, "that the Japanese have no intention of giving up their plans for expansion. If they pursue that course, a collision there is inevitable. It can occur at very short notice." Winston Churchill, on November 10, gave further demonstration of the imminence of war by stating that "Should the United States become involved in war with Japan, a British declaration will follow within the hour." For Japan, Premier Hideki Tojo pronounced his people as ready to break through the economic blockade with which America, Britain, China, and the Dutch East Indies had encircled Japan; such measures, he stated, were "little less hostile than carrying on armed warfare," and he warned that there was a limit to the conciliatory attitude of Japan.

Obviously the people of the United States were not wholly unaware that war with Japan was a strong possibility. Yet war with Japan had been a topic of conversation in America for decades, and many Americans could not help but feel that the danger signs of 1940 and 1941 were nothing more than "talk." Moreover, many were hopeful that the diplomatic exchanges between representatives of the two countries might be productive of a workable solution to the problems confronting the rival powers. Yet the last of those discussions, between the special Japanese envoy, Saburo Kurusu, and Secretary Hull, was in progress at the time that the Japanese launched their war by bombing Pearl Harbor. The conversations were productive of nothing except a continuous reiteration of the issues which had produced an impasse between the United States and Japan. The Japanese representative, to the last, based all his proposals on his nation's having its way in China and Indo-China; while the United States was equally inflexible in refusing to cooperate by a resumption of trade relations with Japan.

On the evening of November 20, Kurusu, together with the Japanese ambassador, Kichisaburo Nomura, called on Secretary Hull to deliver a "five-point formula" for peace. By this formula the U. S. was asked to drop all aid to China, to lift the order freezing trade with Japan, to supply Japan with oil, and to cease all opposition to the Japanese acquisition of raw materials in East Asia and the South Pacific. In return, Japan promised to maintain the *status quo* in Indo-China for the present and to withdraw upon the restoration of peace between Japan and China. The next day, in reporting the interview to the Cabinet, the Secretary of State warned that the problem of Japanese relations could no longer be solved by diplomacy and urged that the military leaders take such steps as were necessary to prevent the Japanese from making an attack that would "stampede the hell out of our scattered forces" in the Pacific.

The American reply to the Japanese five-point formula was handed the Nipponese diplomats on November 26. This memorandum, as had been the Japanese note to which it made reply, was not intended to be final; it simply offered suggestions as a basis for further negotiations. It was proposed that a non-aggression pact be signed between the United States, Japan, China, the Netherlands, Russia, and Great Britain; that a promise be exacted from all signatories to respect the integrity of French Indo-China; that Japan agree to withdraw from China and Indo-China; that recognition be accorded the National Government of the Republic of China; that all trade and commercial restrictions be eliminated throughout the Pacific area.

Four days later, November 30, the Japanese foreign minister, Shigenori Togo, labeled the United States memorandum "fantastic" and declared that Japan, in spite of all opposition, would proceed with its plan to establish a new order in Asia. President Roosevelt, thereupon, made what was to prove to be a final attempt to save the peace by appealing directly to Emperor Hirohito of Japan. In this eleventh-hour message, sent out the day before the attack on Pearl Harbor, the President pointed out to the Emperor the "tragic possibilities" of the situation, urged that Japanese troops be withdrawn from Indo-China, and stressed that both of them strive to perform their "sacred duty to restore traditional amity and prevent

further death and destruction in the world." The Emperor did not see fit to reply.

On the afternoon of December 7, the final words in the diplomatic exchanges were spoken by Secretary Hull. The last visit of Nomura and Kurusu to the State Department had been rendered superfluous by the action of Japanese carrier-based bombers only a short while before they called upon the Secretary of State. The two emissaries had brought with them a note they had received and decoded within the past few hours. It proved to be a reply to all earlier American peace suggestions. The document was truculent in tone, charging the United States with "impossible idealism" and with "scheming for the extension of the war." Then the indignant Secretary spoke for all of America: "In all my fifty years of public service I have never seen a document that was more crowded with infamous falsehoods and distortions; infamous falsehoods and distortions on a scale so huge that I never imagined until today that any government on this planet was capable of uttering them."

Shortly before the start of this interview, Secretary Hull had received word that the war in the Pacific had begun. The official family in Washington first learned of the Japanese attack indirectly from a radio alert sent out by the commanding officer of the Pacific fleet. "To all ships present Hawaiian area: Air raid on Pearl Harbor. This is no drill." Thus read Admiral Husband Kimmel's order. Other areas also were to learn on that December 7, 1941, that "this is no drill": Guam, Wake Island, Midway Island, the Philippine Islands, Hongkong, and Malaya.

The following day, President Roosevelt asked a joint session of the houses of Congress to declare that "since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7," a state of war had existed between the United States and Japan. Congress promptly passed the necessary resolutions. These resolutions evoked no debate. Only one vote was cast against them. The Japanese sneak attack on Pearl Harbor on that "date which will live in infamy," to use the Presidential phrase, at the very moment that a special envoy was engaged in peace negotiations had overnight brought unity to the American people on the problem of foreign policy.

Historians and military analysts will find much over which to ponder in attempting to answer the questions raised by Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor. Did the Japanese actually feel that by thus challenging the United States they could carry on the ensuing war to a successful conclusion? Did they, on the other hand, simply yield unwittingly to the promptings of their Axis partners in Berlin?

While there are those who believe that Japan's attack was largely Berlin-dictated, such a belief appears to credit the Hitler regime with too much influence in Japanese circles. Doubtless the possibility of a Japanese war with the United States was discussed in September, 1940, when the Japanese joined the Axis; yet it seems improbable that the leaders of Japan committed themselves to other than general promises.

The Japanese apparently sought war with the United States with the expectation of winning. While the assault on the American naval vessels in Pearl Harbor was a stunning blow, the Japanese clearly did not consider it to be permanently crippling. Had they intended the bombing of the United States Navy to serve as a stepping stone to conquest in Hawaii or on the American mainland, the Nipponese would have been prepared to launch a follow-up offensive. Such an offensive had not been planned prior to December 7, nor is it certain that one ever was attempted thereafter. The war that Japan set out to win, therefore, was a war for the materials and resources and lands of Southeastern Asia, Malaya, the Dutch East Indies, and the Philippines. It was a war for bases and for an empire of rubber and oil and tin.

The Japanese leaders could see many factors that seemed to favor their fantastic undertaking. Their agents had acquainted them with the impotence of the Allies in the Philippines and the East Indies; they knew far in advance how unprepared were the United States, Great Britain, and the Netherlands to defend their holdings in that region. Moreover, as the Japanese watched the war in Europe they could scarcely have avoided the conclusion that Hitler was in a position to dominate the Continent: on the Continent all save Russia was under his control; great stretches of Russia already were overrun; Great Britain was reeling from the air *blitz*. Dispatches from the United States could have been misleading for the unwary; isolationists rampant, labor restless, industry lagging, close congressional votes on vital issues on foreign policy, all were indicative of lack of unity.

The Japanese could hope that by striking a temporarily paralyzing blow at the American navy, the weak garrisons in the chosen area of conquest would quickly fall, and thus a rich empire would be pocketed before the Allies had fully awakened to their danger. Of course, there was the potential of American industrial and military might to consider, but the Japanese expected to hold on until the United States and Great Britain lost their taste for war.

The Nipponese plan failed, of course. But those who complacently feel that the "Japs never had a chance," would do well to study a war map of the Pacific area dated April, 1942. The lands the Japanese had hoped to conquer were actually overrun and much besides. The Japanese were later to discover that they had miscalculated the Allied spirit and purpose. In the end it was Japan that lost the taste for war.

When the records are released, the research scholar will carefully examine the causes of America's entry into the holocaust, and all private and public documents will be sifted to determine the motives underlying each step taken by the nation's leaders in the direction of war. As after the First World War, whipping boys in the form of munitions makers and the money changers of Wall Street will probably be brought into evidence by sensationalists among the politicians and the journalists. Propaganda analysts will demonstrate anew how superior British publicists prevailed over the fulminations of the Nazis' Dr. Goebbels. Economists will point to the damaging effect of the poor distribution of the world's supply of raw materials. Isolationists will rest their case on the influence of Lend-Lease.

In the years after the close of World War I, opprobrium was heaped upon Woodrow Wilson by isolationists who insisted that the decision to fight Germany was largely personal. The Japanese by bombing Pearl Harbor relieved Franklin Roosevelt of the responsibility of making a similar decision. Nevertheless, the actions of the President prior to December 7, 1941, will be criticized by those who preferred a course of strict neutrality; inflammatory speeches, Lend-Lease, the Atlantic Charter, neutrality patrols, the arming of merchantmen will all be charged to the President. Students of constitutional development will be no less concerned than the isolationists with the unprecedented extension of executive authority by President Roosevelt in offering extra-legislative aid to the Allies.

It is to be hoped that the historian of the era of World War II will give heed to the influence of the attitude of the mass of the people in bringing about America's entrance into the conflict. No propaganda, no Presidential speeches, no executive actions could have had a determining influence on public opinion had the people not favored the Allied cause. Prior to 1939 the people had grown increasingly disturbed by the successes of Hitler's Nazi regime and the Japanese militarists. Once war began, American popular feeling turned overwhelmingly toward the Allies. Few people in the United States felt that this country could stay out of a long war; a fatalistic acceptance of the inevitability of American participation was marked from the start.

The historian must keep in mind that Franklin Roosevelt reflected public opinion as much as he moulded it. This was not "Mr. Roosevelt's War," as his critics were prone to say. The President simply gave voice to a truth expressed by Dexter Perkins in these words: "A great nation cannot isolate itself physically, morally, or intellectually from the rest of the world; . . . it cannot and will not suspend its judgments, or assume an attitude of cool detachment in the midst of world catastrophe; and . . . the only true prescription for 'keeping the United States out of war' is the construction of an international order in which such conflicts as those of 1914 and 1939 do not occur at all."

CHAPTER V

Months of Disaster

December 7, 1941, the day that war came to the United States, dawned as an accustomed quiet Sunday morning. At Pearl Harbor, in the Hawaiian Island of Oahu, most of the army and navy personnel stationed at this headquarters of the American Pacific fleet, were still asleep at 7:55. In the harbor, eight battleships and scores of lesser craft were moored row on row or tied up in dry dock. On airfields close by, hundreds of planes were lined up as if for inspection. Soldiers and sailors who were awake were, for the most part, engaged in the routine tasks of an idle Sunday.

There were indications, however, that all was not well on that momentous morning. At 6:30 a periscope was sighted in the harbor, and fifteen minutes later the destroyer *Ward* scored a direct hit on what proved to be a midget Japanese submarine. A report of the action was received at the Naval base at 7:12, and an investigator was sent from shore to look into the matter. No alarm was given, however, and the base was allowed to continue to enjoy its late sleep. No one bothered even to direct that the protective net guarding the entrance to the harbor be lowered.

At 7:02, Private Joseph L. Lockard, on duty with a radio aircraft detection unit, was aroused by observing his instrument's recording a large flight of planes heading for Pearl Harbor from the north. Their distance was estimated to be 130 miles. He promptly reported his findings to his superior, but the officer at the Army's General Information Center decided that the flight was a group of American planes.

Nearly an hour passed before the planes discovered by Private Lockard came in over Diamond Head. They flew low, the Rising Sun insignia clearly visible to ground observers, but their pilots

correctly guessed that the element of surprise would give them sufficient initial protection. These single-engine bombers were flown directly to previously designated targets: the ships in the harbor, the planes grounded at Hickam Field, Wheeler Field, Bellows Field, and Kaneohe Naval Air Station, the buildings containing the nerve centers of the station's operation, and the personnel housed at Schofield Barracks.

The first Japanese bombs were dropped at 7:55. After the first few minutes of the attack, the American planes at the various air bases had been turned into burning wreckage. Debris piled along the runways kept most of the remaining undamaged planes from leaving the ground. Within half an hour the great station had lost almost all its air protection; 93 out of 273 planes at Hickam and Wheeler Fields had been destroyed and about the same number damaged, and losses at the other airfields were in the same proportion.

By this time the American defenders had swung into action. A few planes succeeded in getting into the air and their pilots demonstrated remarkable bravery in waging a fight against overwhelming odds. Machine guns and even rifles were used by ground forces in knocking down some of the low-flying attackers.

The ships of the fleet in the harbor, meanwhile, had been set upon by Japanese dive bombers. Aboard ship the defense was conducted with vigor and courage. The commanding officer of the *West Virginia* continued in command after a shell burst had ripped open his stomach, and he refused to be moved until the bridge went up in flames. A mess attendant on the *Arizona* who had never before fired a shot manned an anti-aircraft gun effectively in the face of terrific enemy bombing. The commander of the repair ship *Vestal* was blown into flaming oil-covered waters, but he swam back to his vessel and resumed control. Motor launches braved oil fires and enemy shrapnel in rescuing hundreds of seamen. The defeat that befell Pearl Harbor could not be blamed on the fighting men on hand that day; their coolness and heroism were in the best tradition of the American services.

The Japanese sneak attack was a major naval disaster for the United States. The Navy's report, published a year later, revealed that eight battleships, ten lesser men-of-war, a floating drydock, and approximately 250 Army and Navy planes were destroyed or damaged. Five of the battleships, the *Arizona*, *California*, *Nevada*, *Oklahoma* and *West Virginia*, were sunk or beached. and the three remaining battleships, the *Maryland*, the *Pennsylvania*, and the *Tennessee* were damaged. The *Oklahoma*, the target ship *Utah*, and the minelayer *Oglala*, had capsized. The *Arizona* and two destroyers, the *Cassin* and the *Downes*, had blown up and were total losses. Three cruisers, the *Helena*, the *Honolulu*, the *Raleigh*, and the destroyer *Shaw* were among the ships damaged. Virtually every one of the 88 naval craft in the harbor suffered bomb hits. The dead numbered 2,117, the wounded 1,272, and the missing 960.

In accomplishing this devastation, the Japanese had lost 48 of the 200 planes used in the assault. The Japanese had launched their aircraft from the decks of a task force of carriers 150 miles north of Oahu. With the attention of the United States directed at the Japanese troop movements into Indo-China and the threat to the Philippines, these carriers guarded by destroyers and cruisers had sailed unobserved to the point of attack.

At once there arose in the United States a demand for an investigation of the reasons why Japan had scored a complete surprise at Pearl Harbor. After a flight to Hawaii immediately following the raid, Secretary Knox announced: "The United States services were not on the alert against the surprise attack on Hawaii. This fact calls for a formal investigation."

In response President Roosevelt named Associate Justice Owen J. Roberts of the Supreme Court as the head of a five-man board of inquiry. The findings of the board were that the two commanders, Admiral Husband E. Kimmel and Lieutenant General Walter C. Short, were at fault. The forces on hand, the report read, were sufficiently large to repel attack; the responsible commanders were aware of the imminence of a break with Japan; Japan's past history had demonstrated that hostile action might be expected prior to a declaration of war. Yet the two officers had held no joint conferences, and neither had alerted the service he commanded. Both officers were promptly relieved of their posts.

Not until after the cessation of hostilities did Admiral Kimmel and General Short have a chance to answer the charges brought against them. By that time, the inquiry had become so much a matter of political controversy that the Congressional investigators appear to have been less concerned with ascertaining the truth than with making capital for future elections.

Upon being called before the joint committee of Congress, Admiral Kimmel testified that while he had been given a "war warning" on November 27 by the Navy Department, that warning could not "be made a catchall for all the contingencies hindsight may suggest." That dispatch had indicated that the Japanese were planning an attack on Indo-China, the Philippine Islands, or the Dutch East Indies, but not on Hawaii. Had he possessed the information available to his superiors in Washington, he stated, he would have ordered the fleet out to sea where it might have intercepted the Japanese task force.

Equally insistent upon "passing the buck" to Washington was General Short. He too admitted receiving a warning on November 27 forecasting hostile action at any moment, but nothing in that message or in any other made mention of the possibility of a surprise raid. He pointed out that he had notified Washington of the steps he had taken in compliance with the dispatch, and no criticism of his actions had been received prior to December 7.

With the advantage that knowledge after the event gives, it is easy today to see that the Japanese had given strong indications that they intended to start the war with a surprise raid on Pearl Harbor. Military intelligence some time before December, 1941, had solved the Japanese ultra-secret code. This fine achievement was never fully capitalized on, as messages of extreme urgency were allowed to become snarled in red tape instead of being forwarded to their proper destination.

On September 24, 1941, for example, decoded Tokyo instructions to a Japanese spy in Honolulu showed that Pearl Harbor was to be divided by this operative into five sectors as if for bombing purposes. On November 15, the same spy was ordered to send reports twice weekly listing the ships in port. Intercepted directions of November 24 and December 6 asked for details on barrage balloons over the harbor.

All are messages that can be more clearly understood today than they could before December 7. Yet the nature of the interceptions was such that all responsible for America's defense should have been informed. Instead, Intelligence, fearing that Japan would learn of the cracking of the code, frequently guarded the messages with so much zeal that proper use could not be made of them.

No settlement of the Pearl Harbor controversy is possible at this point. From the partial information now at our disposal, it would appear that ample warning was given of an impending attack before December 7. Sufficient time to prepare defenses, moreover, was given by the plane detectors on the morning of the raid. Slow thinking, the failure to follow through, and a complete lack of coordination of the agencies of defense were responsible for the ineffective manner in which these warnings were exploited.

Yet before blame is attached to any individual commander in the Pacific or to any official in Washington, it is important that the decoded message be studied from a pre-Pearl Harbor point of view. Never was it clear, prior to December 7, that Hawaii was a certain point of attack; on the contrary, most of the evidence seemed to point to the Indo-China-Philippine area. The United States was caught off guard because the Japanese struck unexpectedly without issuing a declaration of war. If an officer were to be considered guilty of negligence simply because of being the victim of the unexpected, then the list of officers tried by court-martial would be considerably longer.

Following close on the heels of the American declaration of war against Japan, war with Japan's allies in Europe became a reality. On December 11, German and Italian manifestos of war against the United States were issued, and on that same day the United States declared war against the Germans and Italians. The war was by that time a world-wide war.

American losses at Pearl Harbor were disastrous, but the following year was to prove that the Japanese had not done irretrievable injury to the United States fleet. Of all the ships sunk or damaged on December 7, only the battleship *Arizona* proved to be a total loss. In less than a year all of the remaining vessels had returned to action. "The essential fact," stated Secretary Knox, "is that the Japanese purpose was to knock out the United States before the war began. In this purpose the Japanese failed."

While the Japanese did not succeed in putting the Pearl Harbor flotilla out of commission, the Pacific fleet was hamstrung long enough to permit the little brown men to overrun an extensive island empire. Their strategical plan followed an expected course: first to cut off the line of communications between Hawaii and the Philippines and then to launch invasions at will in the Philippines, Indo-China, and the East Indies.

The island stepping-stones used by the United States to bridge the distance from Honolulu to Manila were Midway, Wake, and Guam. Midway lies thirteen hundred miles from Hawaii, and Wake is nearly twelve hundred miles beyond in the direction of Asia. Guam is fifteen hundred miles from Wake, and the Philippines sixteen hundred miles from Guam. Sketchy defenses had been established on each of these outposts during the years of peace, but the small garrisons there, without reinforcements, could hope to fight at best actions only temporarily delaying. And surprise and time and distance stood as obstacles too great to be overcome by reinforcements.

No sooner had Pearl Harbor been bombed than simultaneous attacks were made upon Midway, Wake, and Guam. Midway for the time being was to suffer only minor blows, but on Wake and Guam the Japanese made landings. The first to fall was Guam, all resistance there being overcome by December 10. The defenders numbered less than six hundred and had neither anti-aircraft batteries nor coast defense guns. Japanese naval and ground forces supported by bombers could not be denied.

Wake also fell to the Japanese, but the sixteen-day defense of the tiny island was so heroic that it was to become an American epic. The attack began four hours after the Pearl Harbor raid, but the intervention of the international dateline made the date December 8. Twenty-four Nipponese bombers struck at noon, destroying seven planes and damaging another. The Americans counted

twenty-five dead in that first raid. In increasing strength the enemy relentlessly bombed and strafed, sending twenty, thirty, forty planes in their noonday attacks. Cruisers and destroyers added their fire.

Yet resistance was kept up by the handful of defenders for over two weeks. The installation numbered 378 Marines, a fighter squadron of 62 men, and a Naval complement of 74; at times 1,200 civilian construction workers could be called upon for assistance. After the first losses, only five planes were available, together with six coastal guns, twelve anti-aircraft guns, less than fifty machine guns, and the customary supply of rifles and revolvers.

After three days of softening the island by bombardment, the Japanese arrived with a landing force under the escort of cruisers, destroyers, and gunboats. Despite the odds against them, the Americans battered the invaders back short of the beaches. One destroyer and a gunboat were sunk by coastal batteries. Another destroyer was sunk by bombs from the five-plane airforce. A light cruiser was set afire by bombing and its magazines blew it apart. The Navy Department in announcing these successes sent morale at home soaring by issuing a quotation from the message of Major James Devereux, Marine commandant at Wake: "Send us more Japs." Major Devereux, at the war's end, admitted that he had sent no such message for already there were too many Japs on hand. Dogged courage, not bravado, was the keynote at Wake.

Steadily the enemy continued to pour bombs down. The island was almost pulverized. Each day would see the irreplacable loss of a plane or a gun that made the attackers' task that much easier on the succeeding day. The story of the last stirring hours at Wake has been told by Gilbert Cant in *America's Navy in World War II*: "The garrison was exhausted beyond all ordinary endurance. It was outnumbered. It had virtually no serviceable artillery and little or no ammunition. It had few machine-guns at best—not more than one for every quarter-mile of beach—and probably even these were by now reduced in number. Before Major Devereux and Commander Cunningham surrendered, preferring to share life in a Japanse prison camp with their men rather than condemn them to useless slaughter, their radio sent its last, its most gallant and its most forlorn message, a masterpiece of understatement: 'Urgent! Enemy on island. The issue is in doubt.'"

On December 23, Wake Island's defenders surrendered. It was, it is true, another American defeat. Yet the legendary exploits of that gallant band were the only cheering incidents for the United States in the somber early months of the war. For with the two links in the island chain severed at Guam and Wake, the Philippines, all knew, were cut off from aid from the American mainland some eight thousand miles away.

The Japanese by this time had achieved both naval and aerial supremacy in the Pacific. To make doubly sure of control of the air, they supplemented the surprise attacks of December 7 with knock-out blows against air fields and air strips on the eve of each invasion. Carriers and each newly-won base gave the Japanese opportunity to give full air support to every ground and naval action. This was an overwhelming advantage that they exploited fully in the early months of the war.

The advance of the Japanese through the territories surrounding the South China Sea was sensational. Thailand they occupied without resistance on December 8. With Thailand as a vantage point, Japanese troops swarmed into Malaya and began a series of flanking movements down the east and west coasts of that slender peninsula. The Allies here came into contact with the skill of Japan's specially trained jungle fighters, and the British were rapidly pushed back across the six hundred mile strip of swamp and jungle. To oppose the 200,000 Japanese, the British had been able to muster but a slender force to defend their Malaya colony rich in rubber and tin and strategically important for the defense of Singapore at the peninsula's southern tip. Within two months the Japanese had laid siege to the giant British fortress, hitherto considered almost impregnable.

To participate in the defense of this bastion, the Admiralty had sent two of the British navy's finest men-of-war, the battle cruiser *Repulse* and the powerful new battleship *Prince of Wales*. On December 10, 1941, the Japanese scored over those two British vessels a victory which removed all doubts regarding Japan's ability to dominate the region. Admiral Phillips had moved the *Prince of Wales* and the *Repulse* out to sea to meet the invaders, but he made the mistake of joining battle without air support. He and all other naval commanders, for the first time in history, were thereupon taught a costly lesson. Japanese dive bombers and torpedo bombers unleashed a furious attack that had sunk both ships in less than two hours.

The doom of Malay, of Singapore, of Hong Kong, of the East Indies could now be plainly seen. Hong Kong, a British mainland base in South China, was lost first; after seventeen days of constant bombardment, the city finally capitulated on Christmas Day of 1941. Nor could fresh reinforcements rushed in from England, Australia, and India save Singapore. Japanese planes pounded the fortress for a month, and at last ground forces captured the reservoirs, forcing surrender on February 15, 1942. Seventy thousand British troops were taken captive at Singapore which Winston Churchill described as the "greatest disaster to British arms which history records."

The capture of Singapore cleared the way on one of the Japanese flanks for an attack on the Netherland Indies. In addition, Burma could be set upon, and the Burma supply road to China closed. Before those advances could be achieved, however, the other flank, the Philippines front, would first have to be guaranteed.

Strategists of the United States had long planned that in case of a war with Japan a withdrawal from the Philippines would be necessary. Closer by six thousand miles to Japan than to the American mainland, it was clear that the islands were virtually indefensible. The losses at Pearl Harbor had multiplied the problems of reinforcements many times over and had given the Japanese control of the waters throughout the Philippine region. The Japanese, moreover, had total air superiority, their bases on Formosa, in Indo-China, in the Caroline Islands, and in the Marianas Islands drawing a tight ring around the Philippines.

Nine hours after the first bomb had fallen at Pearl Harbor, the Japanese made concurrent attacks on Clark Field and Nichol Field, principal American airfields in the Philippine Islands. Military installations there were destroyed, and nearly all of the planes available to the defenders were smashed before they could be put into the air. The loss of the planes was a particularly heavy blow since they included seventeen Flying Fortresses.

On December 10, the Japanese made their initial landings on the main island of Luzon, and they accompanied this thrust with the bombardment of the naval station of Cavite. Cavite was damaged so badly that Admiral Thomas C. Hart, commander of the Asiatic Fleet, felt compelled to order his remaining ships to sea. It will be recalled that it was also on December 10 that the *Prince of Wales* and the *Repulse* were sunk. After that day, the Japanese could strike almost at will at the Philippines without fearing their troops would be set upon by American naval or air units.

Events were to prove, however, that Japan was not to be permitted to take over the Philippine Islands without opposition. General Douglas C. MacArthur headed a force on Luzon which was inadequate to offer prolonged resistance to the enemy but which, nevertheless, had sufficient strength and determination to give the Japanese more than a few bad moments. Under his command were 19,000 Americans, 11,000 well trained Filipino scouts, and some 60,000 native troops.

The Japanese made their first landings on December 10 at Aparri on Luzon's northern tip and at Vigan on the northwest coast. A few days later they sought to put ashore great numbers at Lingayen Gulf, lying about half way between Vigan and Manila, but accurate artillery fire drove them off with heavy losses. The Japanese also suffered severely in forcing their way ashore in the Lingayen Gulf on December 22, but thousands of troops were landed and could not be dislodged. On December 22 and December 24, other Nipponese forced their transports into Laman Bay and established a beachhead at Atimonan and Mauban, south of Manila. The Japanese were now ready to advance on Manila from all sides with an army of 200,000 men supported by tanks and planes.

Realizing that Manila could not be defended, General MacArthur declared it an open city, but the Japanese bombed it anyway. By January 1, the city had been abandoned, and the American troops were pulled around and across the bay to establish a new line astride the Bataan Peninsula. In accomplishing this difficult reconsolidation of forces, the exploits of a group of soldiers and civilians and natives known as Casey's Dynamiters played an important part. Led by Lieutenant-Colonel Hugh Casey, this band of demolition experts blew up bridges and blocked roads in the path of the advancing Nipponese and thereby gave General MacArthur time to regroup his men.

General Homma, the Japanese commander, had predicted an early victory in the Philippines, and unmindful of the cost he did not hesitate to use every means of attack at his disposal. Yet for three months the American and Filipino troops held firmly to Bataan, taking a heavy toll of Japanese and time and again throwing Homma's forces back with counterattacks. Bataan's rugged terrain and thick vegetation enabled the defenders to overcome in part the Japanese superiority in tanks and planes, but the dangerous shortage of ammunition, weapons, medical supplies, and food made the defense a hopeless one. Before they surrendered, however, they had eaten monkeys, mules, and horses; and thousands were racked with malaria and dysentery.

That the end was near on Bataan was shown on March 11, when General MacArthur, acting on orders from Washington, left Luzon by PT boat for the island of Mindanao and from there flew to Australia. Upon his arrival at Melbourne, the General issued a confident forecast of the future: "The President of the United States ordered me to break through the Japanese lines and proceed from Corregidor to Australia for the purpose, as I understand it, of organizing the American offensive relief of the Philippines. I came through and I shall return."

At last Japanese mass attacks and the ravages of hunger and disease could no longer be withstood. On April 9, the new commander on Bataan, General Jonathan Wainwright, brought an end to further suffering by surrendering along with 36,000 of American and Filipino troops.

On Corregidor, an island rock fortress off the tip of Bataan, 11,000 defenders still continued to hold out. Deep in the tunnels

of this stronghold, they were besieged for four weeks, as the Japanese blasted them with bombs, ship's guns, and artillery fire. Then on May 6 the Japanese forced their way into the "Rock," and all resistance in the Philippines was ended. General MacArthur's words were poignant: "Corregidor needs no comment from me. It has sounded its own story at the mouth of its guns. It has scrolled its own epitaph on enemy tablets. But through the bloody haze of its last reverberating shot I shall always seem to see a vision of grim, gaunt, ghostly men, still unafraid."

Meanwhile the delay at Bataan had not stopped the Japanese from pushing westward from Malaya into Burma and eastward and southward into the Netherlands Indies. By the middle of February, 1941, the Japanese had breached the Salween River front in Burma, and by the last day of the month the Burma Road route into China had been cut. The city of Rangoon fell to the Japanese on March 9. Britain had lost an important colony, but China had lost its one supply line. China, for all its strength in allies, was for the time being alone.

Malaya and the Philippine island of Mindanao were ready-made springboards for the Japanese plunge into the East Indies. Even before the closing of the siege of Singapore and their campaign in Bataan, they had begun to capitalize upon their opening moves into the Dutch and British holdings to the south. The invaders made use of *bltizkrieg* tactics that must have made Hitler envious; parachute troops, air bombardment, speedy naval thrusts, amphibious operations, and carefully trained jungle fighters spread the Empire of Nippon four thousand miles eastward to the Solomons and southward reached a point from which they could almost touch Australia.

The list of Japanese conquests in the first six months of warfare reads like a complete chart of the South Pacific: Borneo, Amboina, New Guinea, Sumatra, Timor, the Celebes, Java, New Ireland, New Britain, the Solomons, and the Gilbert Islands. Added to their acquisitions of the First World War, the Marianas, the Marshalls, and the Carolines, the new Greater Japan was an imposing empire.

The Allied losses at Hong Kong, at Singapore, and on Bataan made their defense of the riches of the Indies feeble at best. Where they were able, however, they made the Japanese advance as costly as possible. A small hodge-podge naval force, composed of American, British, and Dutch units, was hastily put together and harassed Japanese troop transports throughout the South Pacific theatre.

Real damage was inflicted on one occasion by an American destroyer patrol operating in the Macassar Strait between Borneo and the Celebes. On the night of January 23, 1942, Commander F. R. Talbot took the *Ford*, the *Parrott*, the *Pope*, and the *Paul Jones* into the strait and maneuvered them into the middle of a Japanese tangle of fighting ships and transports. Before the Japanese understood what was happening, the four destroyers had traversed the entire length of the enemy flotilla four times, launching torpedoes at any target that came into sight. After all the torpedoes had been used, the American gunners opened up at close range; not until then did the Japanese seem to realize that surface vessels, rather than planes or submarines, were responsible for the raid. The exact amount of damage done was never known, but reconnaissance planes the next day were able to report the observation of sinking ships and a routed convoy. Estimates indicate that fifteen Japanese vessels were sunk, and that perhaps as many as 30,000 troops perished.

Yet in time the overwhelming power of the Japanese navy in that sector brought to an end the activity of this makeshift Allied fleet. The Japanese were bent on taking Java and they massed sufficient ships to force their way head-on into Surabaya, the Allied base of operations on the island. On February 27, 1942, the Dutch Admiral Conrad Helfrich, commander of the Allied forces, went out to meet the Japs with five cruisers and nine destroyers. The ensuing Battle of the Java Seas resulted in an Allied defeat, the greater fire-power of the Japanese guns and the Nipponese control of the air making the difference. The Allied fleet scattered, leaving the Java Seas and Java to the enemy. By March 9, the Japanese had pushed enough men ashore to force the surrender of the island.

The Allied position at this point in the Pacific warfare appeared desperate. From Java and New Guinea the Japanese could move directly on Australia. In Burma, they were poised for a thrust into India. China had been isolated. A crowning indignity for the United States was the shelling on February 23, 1942, of an oil field on the California coast by a Japanese submarine; the gun fire had proved harmless but alarmists could not be quieted on the subject of this cocky enemy action.

Six dismal months were those between December, 1941, and May, 1942. The Allies knew that they must brace themselves against other losses that might be equally bad. They further realized that years would be needed to recover what had been lost. Americans had much to remember: Pearl Harbor, the stand at Wake, the travail of Bataan, the seige of Corregidor. Those bitter remembrances made it certain that reparation would be exacted in full from Japan regardless of the time and blood and sweat and tears the task would take. And the road back was almost in sight, although there were none at that time to see.

CHAPTER VI

The End of the Beginning in the Pacific

The first months after Pearl Harbor were not altogether a picture of black despair. From time to time some American success would temporarily raise hopes and point the way toward better things to come. One such occasion was the reported sinking of Japan's 29,000-ton battleship, Haruna, by bombs dropped from a plane piloted by Captain Colin P. Kelley. This announcement during the first week of the war was later disputed, some naval experts declaring that the *Haruna* was hit and only damaged; yet the uncertainty surrounding the incident did not in any way detract from the heroic action of Kelley, who lost his life when his plane burst into flames. As a matter of fact the *Haruna* did survive; not until 1945 was it finally sunk. A second occasion was the day in February, 1942, that Lieutenant Eddie H. O'Hare, a fighter pilot with the carrier *Lexington*, drove his lone plane repeatedly into a flight of nine Japanese bombers and knocked down five and set another on fire. Then a month later, a small naval force, headed by the aircraft carrier *Enterprise*, bombed captive Wake Island and Marcus Island, the latter only 1,200 miles from Tokyo.

On April 18, 1942, came a raid on Tokyo. The morale of the American people soared at the announcement that a squadron of B-25 medium bombers had flown over Japan and had smashed targets in Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, Kobe, and Osaka. Aside from the bare facts of the expedition and a statement that Colonel James H. Doolittle had commanded it, little further information was given out about the raid. Speculation centered about the starting point of the bombers since the B-25 customarily operated from a land base. President Roosevelt, in high good humor, parried questions with the answer that the planes had been based on "Shangri-La."

Concern for the safety of pilots forced down caused the delay of a complete official announcement for over a year. At last the War Department revealed that the bombers had taken off from the decks of the carrier *Hornet*.. The *Hornet* and its special cargo had been conducted to the Japanese islands by the carrier *Enterprise* and a large screen of cruisers and destroyers. The plan to move to within four hundred miles of Tokyo was upset by an encounter with a small Japanese boat when the American ships were still eight hundred miles out. For fear that a radio flash might have revealed their position, the planes took off immediately.

After they had dropped their bombs, the fliers had been instructed to proceed across Japan to China and there to land on specified fields and airstrips in friendly territory. The extra distance required by the hasty take-off, together with heavy winds and storm conditions, made it impossible for the American pilots to carry through as planned. Most of the planes ran out of gasoline shortly after the pilots had sighted the China coast, and forced landings or parachute jumps had to be made in a region largely occupied by Japanese troops. Fifteen of the sixteen planes used were lost. Sixty-four of the eighty crew members contrived with Chinese aid to make their way to American authorities. Five were interned in Russian territory, two were missing, one was killed. Eight became prisoners of the Japanese. Jubilation in the United States turned to indignation when it was learned that some of the captured fliers were put on trial and executed.

The bombing of Japan was more than adequate revenge for the shelling of the California coast in February. Not only was material damage inflicted on five Japanese cities, but more important was the morale value of the raid. Many months were to pass before closer bases and larger planes were to make the bombing of Tokyo routine. Meanwhile, however, the planes from the *Hornet* had shown the way.

Two months before the Tokyo smash, on February 1, 1942, the United States at last answered Radio Tokyo's repeated taunt of "Where is the American Navy?" The answer came in the form of carrier raids on the atolls of the Gilbert and Marshall Islands, raids that did no irreparable damage to Japanese installations nor caused enough havoc to ships and planes to slow down the rampaging invaders. As a successful experiment in the use of carrier planes, however, these island smashes gave the hard-pressed Allies a glimpse into a happier future.

Under the command of Admiral William F. Halsey, a naval task force moved out from Pearl Harbor late in January, and reached the point for attack on February 1. Among Admiral Halsey's vessels were the carriers *Yorktown* and *Enterprise*, the

cruisers *Chester*, *Louisville*, *Northampton*, *Salt Lake City*, and *St. Louis*, and ten destroyers. Each island struck seemed to be taken by surprise, and each was made to feel the weight of punishing blows. In the Marshalls, runs were made over Jaluit, Mili, Kwajalein, Maloelap, and Wotje; in the Gilberts Makin was blasted. Kwajalein was discovered to possess a well-equipped submarine base with many ships resting there at anchor, and it consequently received special attention from the bombers and a mop-up crew of torpedo planes. Jaluit, Maloelap, and Wotje also had attractive targets. The bag for the day included two cruisers, a destroyer, a liner, a sea plane tender, submarines, tankers, planes, air strips, radio stations, water towers, and hangars.

Seventeen enemy ships in all had been sunk and between forty and fifty planes destroyed. As compared to the losses in the Java Seas, the Gilbert and Marshall forays were scant recompense. Yet those raids lifted the sagging spirits of the fighting men of America, and they were thereby made better able to accept subsequent losss at Bataan and Corregidor, knowing that their turn would come again. Come it did in the Coral Sea.

One of the primary objectives for Japan in its campaign to control the South Pacific was Australia. Knowing that Australia unaided would not be able to defend herself, the Japanese systematically set about isolating the continent. A noose of bases had been drawn about Australia by the Japanese island conquests, and to pull that noose tighter they began to assemble in March of 1942 an invasion force of considerable strength. Their probable objectives included Port Moresby in New Guinea, the Solomons, the New Hebrides, and New Caledonia. The Solomons and New Caledonia lay across sea lanes through which supplies passed to Australia, while Port Moresby could control the Torres Strait between New Guinea and Australia, passageway for all sea transport to Darwin on the northeast coast of the continent.

Among the posts used by the Japanese in making ready for the new strikes were Lae and Salamaua on the northern shore of New Guinea. The distance from Port Moresby to Salamaua is only one hundred miles, but the high Owen Stanley Mountains, rising to a height of 16,000 feet, made bombing operations by that route too hazardous. The surprise of the Japanese was all the greater, therefore, when planes from a carrier force, headed by the great ships *Yorktown* and *Lexington*, appeared over Salamaua and Lae. With almost no anti-aircraft fire to face, the American pilots had a field day: three cruisers, a destroyer, and five big auxiliaries were sunk, and eleven other ships, including two destroyers, were hit.

Another Japanese assembly point American scouting planes spotted nearly two months later at Tulagi in the Solomons group. The Japanese were again taken by complete surprise when planes from the same carrier force struck at the ship concentrations at Tulagi on May 4. The Japanese became so confused that the American bomber squadrons were able to drop their bombs and return to their carriers twice for reloads without a single plane being downed by the defenders. The Navy's count shows that twelve of the fifteen ships at Tulagi were sunk, with hits being registered on the other three. Cruisers, destroyers, and transports were among the twelve enemy vessels sent to the bottom.

Three days later the American carriers came into contact with a section of the Japanese fleet on the prowl in the Coral Sea. This time, after the initial surprise, the Japanese reacted much less like the sitting ducks of Lae, Salamaua, and Tulagi and inflicted almost as much damage as they received. This engagement of the rival carrier forces was the first in history in which the opposing surface vessels fired not a single shot at each other; the battle was carried on entirely by the planes.

The Coral Sea is the body of water rimmed around by Australia, New Guinea, the Louisiade Islands, the Solmons, the New Hebrides, and New Caledonia. It was in the vicinity of the Louisiades, southeast of New Guinea, that a scouting plane from the *Yorktown* first came upon the big Japanese force. The Japanese fleet could not have been surprised by the attack that followed, for in anticipation of action they divided their flotilla and started to get their planes in the air. Yet when the flight of American airships, seventy-six strong, came in for battle, the carrier *Ryukaku* was just turning into the wind preparatory to launching its planes. The first bomb hit wrecked the *Ryukaku's* flight deck, and thereafter the big ship was helpless. Dive bombers and torpedo planes closed in for the kill, striking the carrier with ten bombs and fifteen torpedoes. In less than five minutes the 25,000-ton carrier was gone. Commander Robert Dixon radioed back to his base ship the joyous report: "Scratch one flattop." And there were other Japanese ships hit that May 7 morning.

The Americans had no time for jubilation, however, for a message came at that juncture telling of a Japanese attack on the United States tanker *Neosho* and its destroyer escort, the *Sims*. To Admiral Frank J. Fletcher this was an announcement that still another Japanese force had rounded the Solomons and had steamed into the now bloody waters of the Coral Sea. The United States force moved into position to meet them. May 8 dawned with the sun obscured by a heavy overcast so that the scouts had a difficult time locating the Japanese ships. This time, the Japanese also were on patrol, and the American carrier had no sooner sent their planes away than a Japanese scout was observed to come over for a good look and then to turn about for a hurried trip back to his fleet.

Thus when the Japanese counterattack came a short while later, the *Lexington* and *Yorktown* were naked of defending airships. The enemy sent 108 planes; half of these headed for each of the big carriers. Three bombs struck the *Lexington's* decks and torpedoes raked the whole port side of the ship. A single bomb blew out a compartment on the *Yorktown*, killing forty-four of her crew. The *Yorktown* was able to recover quickly, but the *Lexington's* fires and leaks kept all hands busy. Hours later, just as it appeared that the crew's heroic efforts had saved the *Lexington*, gasoline fumes caused an explosion which started new fires that reached the magazine and destroyed the ship.

The sinking of the *Lexington* kept the Battle of the Coral Sea from being a clear-cut American victory. The count of warships sunk by each side on May 7 and 8 indicates that losses were about equal. The Japanese had lost two aircraft carriers, a heavy cruiser, two destroyers, and some smaller craft. The American vessels sunk were the powerful *Lexington*, the biggest prize of all, the *Neosho*, and the *Sims*.. In planes shot down the margin was altogether in favor of the United States; one hundred Japanese to twenty-one American.

Considered from the standpoint of the attainment of objectives, however, the Coral Sea engagement was in truth an overwhelming victory for the United States. The Japanese in February and March had been making preparations for strikes all around the Coral Sea with Australia as the ultimate objective. The American raids in March on Lae and Salamaua and on May 4 on Tulagi had jarred the Japanese; the battle of May 7 and 8 demonstrated that the Japanese had begun to overreach themselves. Australia was not yet safe and no islands had been wrested from Japanese control. Yet America knew and Japan should have known after May 8 that the power of the United States Navy was enough to hold Japan in check. While the Battle of the Coral Seas was not a turning point in the history of the war, the battle does mark the point at which the Nipponese Empire was first held short of an objective.

Failure in the Coral Sea now caused the Japanese to commit a fatal blunder. Sound judgment demanded that they be cautious thereafter in challenging the United States Navy. Clearly the time had come for the sprawling empire to slow down in its campaign for new lands and to concentrate on the consolidation and protection of areas already overrun. The United States Navy was now known to be capable of offensive action; that had been proved in the Gilberts and Marshalls as well as in the Coral Sea. Certainly no move in the direction of Hawaii by the Japanese should have been made at any time, unless the American navy was on the ropes; yet close on the heels of the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Japanese chose to strike at Midway Island perhaps with the intention of using it as a stepping stone to Hawaii.

Fletcher Pratt has suggested that the Japanese launched their ill-timed offensive against Midway because they were impelled by the loss of face in the Coral Sea; because they were conscious of the speed-up of our production; and because of a belief that "on the evidence of Pearl Harbor, that an unexpected attack would always catch us napping." Whatever motives and strategical plans motivated the Japanese, they made their bid for Midway in June. The name of the ensuing battle, the Battle of Midway, is evidence enough to show that the Japanese were stopped short of any possible further move. There was not to be a Battle of Hawaii.

The mistakes of Pearl Harbor were not repeated as the Japanese had hoped. This time the United States was ready. Just how ready the American forces were is indicated by a newspaper account carried by the *Chicago Tribune* of June 7, 1942, immediately following the battle. The *Tribune* stated that the Navy had known the exact strength and the location of every segment of the invading force from the moment the Japanese set out from their bases. Revelations after the close of the war have cleared up the mystery of the Navy's inside information; the solving of the Japanese code enabled Intelligence to know in advance the concentration of Japanese ships, and the prompt transmission of intercepted enemy dispatches to the Navy made it possible for the necessary countermeasures to be taken. This explains why the damaged *Yorktown*, refueled and repaired, was on hand, after a five-thousand-mile run from the South Pacific, ready to do battle at Midway.

This is the explanation also of the seeming indifference of the Navy to a Japanese feint at the Aleutians and Alaska on June 3. Alaska was clearly as likely to be the Japanese target as was Midway or Hawaii; its defenses were weak, and its strategic value was greater than that of Midway. The carrier planes of Japan that bombed Dutch Harbor might have been softening up that spot for an invasion, but to the relief of the defenders nothing happened after the bombers left. For that matter, later in the month the Japanese did establish bases on Kiska, Attu, and Agattu which necessitated retaliatory action throughout the following months by American submarines and bombers. This was a front of secondary importance after the check of the Japanese at Midway, but it would have been deemed of major significance on the eve of the great early June battle if the broken enemy code had not tipped

off the high command as to the true Japanese strategy. Consequently Admiral Chester Nimitz who plotted the Navy's course and Admiral Raymond A. Spruance who commanded the forces at Midway held their ships in the south for the main enemy attack.

Knowing the Japanese purpose did not necessarily make the American task of thwarting that purpose any easier. The Japanese had assembled a huge armada possessed of considerably more strength than the United States could put in the Central Pacific. This great fleet the Japanese had split into three squadrons: the first was a striking force, intended to smash naval opposition, and it consisted of four big aircraft carriers, two battleships, four cruisers, and twelve destroyers; the second was a support force of two battleships, seven cruisers, a small carrier, and ten destroyers; the third was an occupation force consisting of two armored transports, six troopships, four cruisers, twelve destroyers, ten submarines, and twelve supply ships. Although outnumbered in surface vessels, the United States had one important advantage: land-based Flying Fortresses and medium bombers could operate in the fighting area out of the island of Midway and the far-ranging Flying Fortresses could use distant Hawaii as a base.

The opening round in the four-day battle came on June 3, when Flying Fortresses from Midway, in response to a scout's report, flew out seven hundred miles to drop their bombs on the occupation force. A cruiser and a transport were left burning. That night some clumsy PBY flying boats in the role of torpedo planes scored other hits on this same Japanese squadron.

The next day the Japanese retaliated with a heavy bombardment of Midway by carrier planes in what was to prove to be their closest approach to their island objective. The administration building, the hangars, machine shops, canteens, mess halls, all were badly damaged. Of the 180 Japanese planes participating in the raid, 43 were brought down. Yet the Japanese took a heavy toll of Marine fighters who sought to hold them off in obsolescent Brewsters.

At the same time that Midway was being bombed, planes from the island and the American carriers were working on the Japanese ships. The principal warships in the United States Navy participating in the battle were the aircraft carriers *Yorktown, Enterprise,* and *Hornet.*. The magnitude of the engagement is indicated by the number of planes sent up in the opening phase of the American attack: a flight of forty-one torpedo planes composed of fifteen from the *Hornet,* fourteen from the *Enterprise,* and twelve from the *Yorktown;* thirty-six dive-bombers, ten fighters, and a scouting plane from the *Enterprise,* and a comparable number of bombers, fighters, and scouts from the *Yorktown* and the *Hornet.*. In addition some fifteen Marine dive-bombers and sixteen Fortresses from the Midway base participated—in all over two hundred American planes. And the Japanese had aloft just as many.

This mobile artillery of the men-of-war made this Midway battle a spectacular show. For shattering power nothing can quite equal a salvo of a battleship, but the greater effectiveness of the dive-bomber enables the carrier to make its power felt in a fashion never dreamed of by the battleship. Something to behold, moreover, was a plane's long dive at its target, then having dropped its bomb, its turning into an almost vertical climb to get out of harm's way. The air battle between the American and Japanese pilots, in view of the number of planes involved, made the contest seem all the more a struggle of titans.

The Americans from Midway in the first hours of the battle dealt heavy blows to the large Japanese carriers. The *Akagi* had a gaping hole torn in her side by a torpedo, and the new carrier *Soryu* was hit by four bombs. Major Lofton B. Henderson, pilot of one dive-bomber struck by enemy fire, held his plane on its course and smashed his plane and a thousand-pound bomb squarely into the island superstructure of the *Soryu*.. The Flying Fortresses then came in to help finish the job.

At that stage both the American and Japanese forces had reached a point of desperation. At Midway installations had been badly damaged and pilots and planes were in bad shape. Yet the Japanese too were about used up, and their limping armada was ordered to turn about to get away from the danger of further attack. But Admiral Spruance and his carriers pressed the fight and refused to allow the Japanese a rest period.

Immediately the carrier planes went for the undamaged carrier *Kaga,* so unprepared for attack that its planes were still on the flight deck. Hits rained all over the *Kaya* until it blazed from one end to the other; its magazines went up with a roar and it was gone. More fires were started on the *Akagi* and the *Soryu.* The remaining Japanese carrier, however, now got in a blow of its own. Planes from the *Hiryu* turned on the *Yorktown* and planted bombs on her decks and down her funnel. Although the *Hiryu* then made off with an escort of two battleships, a cruiser, and a destroyer, the American planes caught up with the group and thoroughly worked them over. All of the ships were hit and the *Hiryu* was left burning from stem to stern.

The dying carrier giants, both Japanese and American, still were afloat except for the *Kaga.* Flying Fortresses finished off the *Akagi* while the submarine *Nautilus* accounted for the *Soryu.* The *Hiryu* sank without receiving a *coup de grace*.. Just as it appeared that the *Yorktown* might be saved, a Japanese submarine delivered the blows that finished her. The same submarine's torpedoes found their mark in the destroyer *Hamman* and it too was sunk.

The United States, through the *Hornet,* got in the last blows. Planes from the *Hornet,* searching for the scattered Japanese, came upon two cruisers, the *Mikuma* and the *Mogami.* Both vessels were sunk as the final act in the Battle of Midway. It was June 6; the battle had been in progress four days.

The official Navy communique gives this recapitulation of the losses inflicted on the Japanese: four carriers were sunk, the *Kaga,* the *Akagi,* the *Soryu,* and the *Hiryu;* two heavy cruisers, the *Mogami* and the *Mikuma* were sunk; three destroyers and one transport were sunk; three battleships were damaged, one severely; four cruisers and several lesser craft were damaged; an estimated 275 planes were shot down or lost at sea; approximately 4,800 Japanese were killed or drowned. The American losses were announced as the *Yorktown* and the *Hamman,* 150 planes, and 307 men.

Perhaps the best summary of the place of the Battle of Midway in the history of the Second World War has been given by Hanson W. Baldwin: "It was a defensive victory and an incomplete victory but a great victory. Had we been able to follow it up and wipe out the remnants of the Japanese Fleet by surface ship action it might have been one of the decisive victories in the history of the world. As it was, it saved Hawaii and tended more nearly to equalize the strengths of the two fleets in the Pacific." The nature of the victory at Midway was misunderstood in America after the first communiques with newspaper headlines screaming "Jap Fleet Smashed," and the tendency has been to exaggerate its importance ever since that time. Yet no amount of analysis can dim the glory of the Navy, Marine, and Army units that participated in the engagement nor lessen their achievement in bringing the advancing Japanese to a jarring, crashing halt. The Japanese Navy was far from smashed, but it was not again throughout the war to assume the offensive except on a small scale as a supporting force for a landing operation.

Another branch of the naval service, the submarine patrol, played a significant role in checking the advance of the Japanese after their successes during the early months of warfare. The carrier *Soryu,* downed at Midway, was only one of many Japanese vessels sunk by submarine action. During the first year and a half of war, submarines accounted for 190 warships, and they were credited with an additional thirty listed as probably sunk. Fletcher Pratt estimates that this represented to Japan a loss of 500,000 tons of shipping, more tonnage than the Empire was able to produce in a year. Yet no more than a hundred American submarines were in operation in the Pacific.

The Pacific submarine patrol established a tradition and a record of service that will be a source of pride for many generations to come. They harried merchant vessels and transport ships along the supply routes to the Pacific islands. They nosed into Tokyo harbor and struck at shipping in the enemy's home base. They dodged depth charges all over the Pacific. Navy men will never tire of telling the story of Commander Howard W. Gilmore: how, when he was riddled by bullets while running to the conning tower when his vessel had to submerge, he gave the order that saved his ship and cost him his life: "Take her down."

Not without cause did Admiral Hart, at one time at the head of the fleet in the Far East, refer to the submarines as the most important ships of his command. "They forced," Fletcher Pratt wrote in the October, 1943, issue of *Harper's Magazine,* "major realignments in Japanese strategy, methods, and even production. They turned the exploitation of the Indies, which had seemed so simple, into an affair of continual combats that necessitated Japanese countermeasures which ate up much of the resources that had been gained. It is probably not too much to say that the American submarines, more than any one factor, were responsible for the stagnation of the Japanese island-creeping offensive . . . It was not the Battle of Midway alone, but also the work of the submarines that preceded, accompanied, and followed it, that placed the Pacific initiative in our hands and changed the face of the war."

The successes of the United States Navy in the Coral Sea and at Midway, supplemented by the activities of the submarine patrols, greatly lessened the pressure on Australia. Allied ground forces were equally important in bringing relief to the beleaguered Dominion, and in New Guinea and in the Solomons they conducted campaigns that brought to an end the string of victories that the Japanese had enjoyed since December 7.

Upon General MacArthur's arrival in Australia in March, 1942, he was announced by President Roosevelt to be in command of all air, sea, and land forces east of Singapore in the Southwest Pacific. From the outset he had the unqualified support of the Australian people who hailed the new appointment "the best single piece of news since the outbreak of the Pacific War." Despite their enthusiasm, however, the Australians could not defend their extensive continental domain unaided. This fact Washington and London understood, and convoys in increasing size were headed for Australia. On April 7, the American Forty-First Divisiion arrived, and a month later it was followed by the Thirty-Second Division. In addition some of the troops of the Austra-

lian forces sent to the Middle East were drawn back. Yet the Pacific front until the last months of the war was treated as secondary by the supreme command, and the slender forces "down under" were expected to hold off the Japanese as best they could.

Meanwhile MacArthur was making use of the resources available to him. His plan was to stop the Japanese before they reached Australia, to make New Guinea as valueless to them as possible. By his reckoning the Allies' one base in New Guinea, Port Moresby, must be held at all costs since it offered a base for American operations at a spot most likely to prove troublesome to the Japanese. Port Moresby in enemy hands, however, could be used as an assembly point for an invasion against Australia; despite the difficulties involved, therefore, it had to be retained.

At General MacArthur's direction the defenses of Moresby were strengthened with everything that could be moved there: anti-aircraft guns, planes, supplies of all kinds. Hard-working engineers rushed the completion of airfields and facilities for fighters and bombers. Next the construction crews shifted to Milne Bay at the southeastern tip of the island and began to hack out a second sizeable base. Work in the sweltering heat of the lush jungle of New Guinea was a nightmarish experience, but combat under such conditions was indescribable.

And fighting was soon necessary to save the two bases from enemy attack. On July 29, 1942, the Japanese began to move toward Port Moresby by way of the virtually impassable route across the lofty Owen Stanley Mountains. Australian outposts along the Kokoda trail through the mountains opposed each step of the enemy's progress. Through the month of August the slow advance of the Japanese continued, but by the middle of September they had been halted. An incredible retaliatory attack by the Australians then pushed the Nipponese back across the jungle trail to the other side of the Owen Stanley range. On August 25 a Japanese attempt to effect a landing at Milne Bay was beaten back with heavy loss to the attackers. For the time being the New Guinea outpost in the Australian defense was firmly held.

At the time the Japanese were being checked on New Guinea, a campaign was launched by American forces that was to mark a sudden change in the course of the war. The people of all the Allied nations understood full well that defensive victories and restraining actions would not win back the lands yielded to the enemy. Equally it was clear that a move on the Japanese home islands would be necessary for ultimate victory. With Allied forces so heavily committed to striking down the European foe first, however, the war in the Pacific seemed fated to last far into the future. Victory at Midway was fine, it was felt, but how long ran the question, must we wait for victory in the Philippines and in Japan.

In August of 1942 an answer began to be made to that question. The answer was in the form of offensive action by a combined force of ground, naval, and air units. The place was Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.

The offensive directed against the Solomons by the United States was originally limited in character, both as to objectives and to commitments. The initial objectives were, first, to restrain the Japanese in their attempts to push ou of the Central Pacific and, second, to make secure the American supply lines to Australia. Actually then the thrust into the Solomons was at the outset primarily a defensive maneuver intended to keep the Nipponese so busy that they would not have time to create trouble elsewhere. In time, however, this little offensive grew into one of the major campaigns of the war.

Not a fraction of the men and materials were available for an invasion of the Solomons that were needed. Nazi submarines were operating full blast in the Atlantic, and convoys there required the use of many transport vessels and warship escorts. Shortly the Allies would invade North Africa, and troops and materials and planes and ships were being accumulated for that purpose. Too little was left for the Pacific, and the Solomons were only pinpoints in the Pacific. Only the Marine First Division could be spared for the landings in the Solomons. The naval support was to be furnished by the *South Dakota*, one of the newest of the battleships, three carriers, the *Wasp*, the *Saratoga*, and the *Hornet*, some cruisers, and destroyers. In command were Major General A. A. Vandergrift of the Marine Corps and Vice-Admiral Robert L. Ghormley for the Navy.

The chosen area of attack, the Solomons, was a chain of islands over five hundred miles in length. The islands that were to prove of importance in the first months of the campaign included Guadalcanal, Florida, and three tiny islands off Florida, Tulagi, Gavatu, and Tanambogo. The plain along the northern shore of Guadalcanal had been occupied by the Japanese months before, and an airfield had been built there; Tulagi they had also taken over for the advantages that its fine harbor afforded. The harbor and the airfield were our first objectives.

At dawn on August 7, 1942, the American navy's *Astoria*, *Quincy*, and *Vincennes* and Australia's *Canberra* entered the Sealark Channel between Guadalcanal and Florida and swung toward Guadalcanal; next entered the *Australia*, the *Hobart*, and three American cruisers, all heading for Tulagi. Dive-bombers and naval salvos quickly knocked out shore batteries, and most of the enemy's planes were smashed on the ground. Resistance at Guadalcanal was surprisingly weak; at Tulagi, Gavatu, and Tanambogo two attacks were beaten off and the Marines were barely able to hold on at Tulagi and Gavatu. Not until the next day was a foothold on Tanambogo made secure.

On August 8, the Japanese opened counteroffensives at all points occupied by American forces, and for months thereafter American troops were compelled to face a savage and determined foe. Rarely have Americans had to fight under worse conditions: the climate was almost unbearably hot and humid; the tropical rains were unrelenting; the dense jungle growth and slime complicated conditions of combat; the enemy had to be exterminated one by one in the many caves of the island. The Japanese had comparatively short supply lines and almost nightly ran in enough men and materials to make the position of the Americans desperate; the same ships that brought reinforcements, moreover, subjected the occupying troops to periodic bombardments with their heavy naval guns. During the day land-based bombers came down from Rabaul on New Britain to blast them, and at night submarines threw shell-fire at them. Always the struggle was hard, usually against well-trained jungle fighters who preferred to work in the pitch black of the tropical night. In straight hand-to-hand combat the Japanese were tough, and in the use of trick devices such as the wiring of their own dead as booby traps they were unsurpassed. The most hardened veteran found Guadalcanal a nerve-racking experience. "In due course," says Fletcher Pratt, "there were so many breakdowns among our men that the psychiatric cases equaled those hospitalized for wounds."

Throughout the first three months of the Solomons campaign, the march of events offered testimony to the shoestring nature of the offensive, to the hurried preparations, to the lack of men and equipment. Just how hazardous was the American position is indicated by the Marine commander, General A. A. Vandegrift, who wrote in the *New York Times* for August 5, 1945: "In mid-October, after some planes had joined us, our aviation gasoline reserves fell desperately low. Ammunition became pure gold. Just before a major enemy attack broke, heroic efforts by naval supply forces brought sufficient relief to see us through."

In bringing these reinforcements to the hard-pressed troops, the United States Navy on several occasions encountered the Japanese fleet as it was bent on a similar purpose of supply. The first engagement between the two navies in the Solomons occurred on the night of August 8, 1942, the second night of the campaign. Shortly after midnight a Japanese task force of three cruisers and seven destroyers slipped past a destroyer patrol and into the waters between Guadalcanal and Tulagi. Their flares and searchlights suddenly lighted up the Allied ships, and before the surprised crews could get to their battle stations Japanese broadsides and torpedoes ripped our flotilla apart. The heavy cruisers *Astoria*, *Vincennes*, and *Quincy* and the Australian cruiser *Canberra* were sunk without material damage to the Japanese squadron. It was one of the worst defeats in the history of the United States Navy.

A second clash beween units of the two rival fleets on August 24 ended with results more favorable to the American cause. Planes from two United States carriers, the *Saratoga* and the *Enterprise*, engaged Japanese land-based bombers and carrier planes in a violent air battle. Ninety-six enemy planes were shot down, more than twice the number of American planes lost. A Japanese battleship, a light cruiser, and two transports were damaged by bomber action, while a small aircraft carrier, the *Ryujyo*, was sunk. On the debit side, the *Enterprise* was struck by heavy bombs, but the repair crews were able to put the "indestructible" ship back in trim.

The hit and run naval battles continued through the following November. On August 30, a Japanese bomber sank our transport-destroyer *Calhoun*. A week later a Nipponese cruiser and two destroyers knocked out two American destroyer-transports, the *Little* and the *Gregory*. On September 15, a heavy blow was experienced when a Japanese submarine torpedoed the aircraft carrier *Wasp* and the destroyer *O'Brien*. On the same day that the *Wasp* and the *O'Brien* were lost, the Japanese came close to rolling up the whole front and pushing the Marines on Guadalcanal into the sea; they fought their way to the tent which served as General Vandegrift's headquarters before they were stopped.

At that juncture an American naval squadron again saved the campaign. On October 11, a new group of American cruisers and destroyers put in their appearance, lay in wait, and that night ambushed a large Japanese force of supply vessels and their escorts. The Japanese first learned of the presence of the *Boise*, the *Helena*, the *Salt Lake City*, the *San Francisco*, and the other American men-of-war when suddenly forty-nine of the ships' heavy guns blazed forth in one mighty broadside. At close range the American gunners could not miss. Conflicting reports make it difficult to determine the actual amount of damage inflicted on the Japanese, but it appears that three cruisers, four destroyers, and a transport were sunk. The *Boise* was damaged, and the destroyer *Duncan* was lost by the United States Navy. Yet in less than a week the Japanese bounced back and bombed and sank the destroyer *Meredith* and badly damaged the destroyer *McFarland*.

Public criticism by this time had been aroused by the severe losses in the Solomons. Partly as a result of this outspoken ques-

tioning of strategy, Admiral Ghormley was removed as commander of naval forces in the region. Vice Admiral William Halsey replaced Ghormley. Whether or not the fabulous "Bull" Halsey was wholly responsible for the ensuing change in American fortunes would be hard to determine; at any rate a sharp turn for the better did occur.

October 26, 1942, saw the first important engagement between the opposing fleets in the Solomons area after Halsey took command. In this Battle of Santa Cruz a strong Japanese force, including battleships, carriers, cruisers, and destroyers, was stopped short of its Guadalcanal objective. Among the United States vessels that participated in the battle were the *South Dakota*, the *Enterprise*, the *Hornet*, and two new anti-aircraft cruisers, the *Atlanta* and the *Juneau*. The Japanese fleet was sent limping back north with the loss of 150 planes and severe damage to a battleship, two carriers, and three heavy cruisers. Yet the Japanese claimed the victory; they had downed the destroyer *Porter* and most important of all they had sunk the *Hornet*, a ship that the Japanese had been out to get since the previous spring when planes had left its flight deck and bombed Tokyo. In addition hits had been scored on the *South Dakota* and the *Enterprise*. The *South Dakota*, however, again gave a remarkable exhibition by knocking enemy planes out of the air almost at will.

Then in a four-day engagement lasting from November 12 to November 15, there occurred one of the largest naval contests of the war. Again the Japanese had sent the ships of their "Tokyo Express" to reinforce their troops on Guadalcanal, and again a night battle ensued as an American cruiser force sought to intercept them. Admiral Daniel J. Callaghan aboard the *Helena* had to match his cruisers against battleships, but they worked into such close range that the Japanese could not depress their guns enough to fire at the waterline. To the watchers on shore the battle was an awe-inspiring spectacle; the brief arc of a searchlight, the blinding flash of a gun muzzle, the arching trail of a star shell revealed from time to time the twisting ships as they lunged about in their death struggle. Later fires and explosions aboard the vessels lighted up the whole scene.

Daylight showed that three of our destroyers, the *Laffey*, the *Cushing*, and the *Barton* were gone and that the *Monssen* was able to stay afloat only an hour longer. Among the cruisers, the *Atlanta* was a wreck and had to be scuttled, the *Portland* was rudderless, and the *Helena* and the *San Francisco* were limping. Admiral Callaghan and Admiral Norman Scott were listed among the dead. The Japanese had headed north away from Guadalcanal without having touched or fired on its shores, leaving two cruisers and four destroyers on the ocean's floor as a reminder of the battle. American planes pursued the retreating enemy and finished the job of sinking a battleship that had been damaged heavily in the night engagement. The American cruiser, *Juneau*, however, was another casualty of the second day of fighting; it was picked off by an enemy submarine.

November 15 was a field day for American bombers and gunners. A Japanese convoy of eight troop transports, without a sufficiently large supporting escort of fighting ships, was set upon by land-based bombers during the afternoon, and most of the transports were sunk with a heavy toll of lives. That night the big ships slugged it out in a battle in which the *South Dakota* and the *Washington* took part. A Japanese battleship was sunk and a second damaged; two Japanese cruisers were split in two and another also was sunk; a destroyer completed the list of enemy losses. All of this was at the cost of one destroyer sunk and two damaged.

Thereafter the issue in the Solomons was never in doubt. The Japanese were not through, but they were able after that to engage only in a war of attrition. After the hardest kind of fighting which lasted until February, 1943, Guadalcanal was wrested from the Japanese.

The long bitter campaign had done more than mark the beginning of the American assumption of the offensive. The struggle on land had demonstrated that American Marine and Army units were ready to endure the severest of hardships and at the same time were skilled enough to smash a clever ruthless enemy. Valuable lessons had been learned about teamwork, about the coordination of land, sea, and air forces.

In the words of General Vandegrift: "Guadalcanal, in effect, became a trap into which not only crack units of the Japanese Army but highly prized warships, transports and planes were drawn to their destruction." A clear illustration of this may be found in the count of Japanese warships blasted by bombers and surface vessels. Sixty-nine ships were sunk, including two battleships, one carrier, eleven cruisers, twenty-two destroyers, twenty-four transports, and nine lesser craft; while over a hundred vessels were damaged, among them being seven battleships, four carriers, thirty-one cruisers, fifty-one destroyers, thirteen transports, and a number of smaller ships.

The Solomons campaign would have been important if it had resulted in nothing except the destruction of all this Japanese equipment. Yet it was important further in marking the beginning of the island-hopping progress toward Tokyo. Tokyo was still far in the distance, but we were on our way.

CHAPTER VII

End of the Beginning in the Air and On the Sea

On the European and Mediterranean fronts, the year 1941 was as marked by a mixture of successes and failures as was the case in the Pacific. In all theatres of operations, the first half of the year customarily was a period of Axis victories, while during the last six months the Allies began to achieve a measure of vengeance. By the year's end, however, no overwhelming triumphs had been scored by the Allies, and the Axis nations could use any world map to demonstrate that their claims to dominance still were hard to challenge.

American publicists, however, were able to review the events of the year after Pearl Harbor and declare with remarkable foresight that the advantage in the war was beginning to turn to the Allies. The words of one of the ablest of these writers. Hanson W. Baldwin, writing for *Foreign Affairs*, gives the viewpoint held by most of them: "This has been a year of hope deferred, of tragedy, of the most acute danger this nation has ever faced, a year of great defeats and great victories, a year in which the United States has found its soul, mustered its strength, organized its armies, and commenced its long, hard forward march to victory. It has been a year of crises, but of crises met, endured and passed. It has seen, probably, the turning point of the war. . . . Slowly but surely the strategic initiative is shifting to the United Nations. The future will depend more upon what we do than upon what the enemy does. We can still lose the war, but if we do so it will be because of our own mistakes and weaknesses, not primarily because of the enemy's strength. For the strength of the Axis is commencing to be outmatched and the inestimable advantages of the initiative are passing to our side."

Nowhere was the mounting strength of the Allies, accompanied by an observable waning of Axis power, more clearly evident than in the struggle for control of the air over the continent of Europe. During the Battle of Britain in the months following the fall of France, Hermann Goering's *Luftwaffe* had enjoyed complete mastery of the air not only over Europe but over England as well. In the autumn months of 1940 large areas of London were wrecked, Coventry was left a shambles, the industrial cities were blasted. The air *blitz* had been checked by the RAF, but only to the extent that a Nazi attempt to win victory through the use of air power was thwarted. The next two years were to see an almost complete reversal of positions for the two air forces.

Between November, 1940, and February, 1941, the British Empire's airmen dealt very roughly with Premier Mussolini's *Regia Aeronautica*. While Britain's most able pilots were engaged in defending the British Isles, the Empire's second team almost cleared the skies in Northern Africa and in the eastern Mediterranean of Italian planes. Flying obsolescent air craft, British and Dominion airmen more than held their own against the best the Italians had to offer, and with the belated arrival of some Hurricanes and Curtiss Tomahawks the mastery of the British was established beyond all doubt. The British air arm had previously helped the Royal Navy drive the Italian fleet from the Mediterranean. Naval planes unaided in November, 1940, had sunk half of the Italian battle fleet at Taranto in Italy, and they had participated in the smashing of the Italian Navy in the Battle of Cape Matapan off the southwestern coast of Greece in March, 1941, a great engagement in which the Royal Navy had crushed the Italians. Thereafter the Italian air, naval, and military services were on the defensive until they were forced from the war.

Against the Germans, however, the Royal Air Force found the Mediterranean theater less to its liking. Hitler had hurried elements of the *Luftwaffe* to North Africa in the beginning of 1941 to save the crumbling Italian Empire, and they stayed on to fly support for Rommel's *Afrika Korps* in the Tunisian and Libyan desert. Daily the Nazi fliers winged out over the Mediterranean to harass British convoys; and after Crete fell to the German airmen, it became a major base for profitable operations against British merchant ships and fleet units. Inexplicably, however, Hitler did not bother to take over Gibraltar with the aid of his henchman Franco, and as Malta continued to withstand attack the British convoys kept on plying the Mediterranean.

In May, 1941, the Royal Navy with the aid of its air arm scored its first notable offensive success against the Nazis. For the most part, the small German Navy was kept bottled up in its home ports, but occasionally a pocket battleship would slip out and lurk around shipping lanes in the North Sea or the Atlantic to prey on convoys.

In May, however, the giant 45,000-ton superdreadnaught *Bismarck* made its way out of a Norwegian port and headed for the Atlantic. Reconnaissance planes took up the hunt, and in a short while spotted the *Bismarck* and the pocket battleship *Prinz Eugen* near the coast of Greenland. Ships of the British fleet began the chase, and on May 24, one of the most powerful ships in the Royal Navy, the *Hood*, gave battle. The *Hood* was sunk after only a few minutes of fighting. The two German ships continued their fight, the *Prinz Eugen* eventually returning safely to its home waters, but the British pursuers kept hot after the *Bismarck*. Aircraft from the carriers *Ark Royal* and *Victorious* on May 26, scored torpedo hits on the Nazi vessel, so reducing its speed that the following day British warships were able to catch up with her. The *Bismarck* died hard, but torpedoes and broadsides at last sank the great battleship.

Meanwhile the Germans had not entirely ceased their air war against the British Isles. It was no longer a *blitz*, but sporadic raids continued and ruin and death still stalked England. Casualty lists from Nazi raids in the first two months of 1941 were less than one-fifth as long as they had been during the height of the *blitz*, but this still meant that over 5,000 were killed. By May the Germans had stepped up their attacks, and over 10,000 dead were counted by the British in that month alone.

After May, 1941, the Nazi pace slackened. British defensive weapons to some degree were responsible. The anti-aircraft ground defenses were improved. New planes for night-fighting, such as the Bristol-Beaufighter and the Douglas Havoc, proved most effective, and the use of radar in spotting planes considerably aided the defenders against night raids. More important, however, was the Nazis' opening of their front against Soviet Russia in June, 1941. The Germans became so heavily involved in the east that they had to withdraw the majority of their planes from their French and Norwegian bases.

This opportunity the British air force hastened to exploit. New and more powerful bombs had been used by the RAF the previous spring in raids on Emden, Hamburg, and Mannheim. Now these bombs began to be dropped all over Hitler's Europe. The announced losses of British aircraft indicate the increasing air offensive. On June 27 twelve planes were lost over Bremen; on September 7 twenty were downed; and on November 7 thirty-seven bombers failed to return from sweeps over Berlin, Cologne, and Mannheim.

Yet to the Russians, and to many of the English, the British were moving too slowly. As the Nazi offensive against the Soviet Union rolled steadily into Russia, the British government was beset on every hand with requests for the opening of a second front. With the Russians engaging the bulk of the German armies, the Allied peoples everywhere urged an offensive against the Axis in France, in Norway, in Italy—an offensive anywhere that would be strong enough to divert Nazi strength away from the eastern front. Official newspapers and administrative spokesmen of the Soviet Union were insistent, and in due course Premier Stalin made brusque demands for action.

The British, however, were not yet prepared for a European invasion; and even after the entrance of the United States into the war, time was needed for production and supply concentration. Until the day when the Allies could prepare an offensive, the British and later the United States threw all the air power they could muster against the Germans in the west. In this manner it was hoped that the public clamor for a second front would be stilled. Time was to prove that the Russians were not to be quieted until an actual armed invasion had been achieved, that Stalin still was to call for the Allies to "fulfill their obligations fully and on time."

Yet the heightened air assault on Germany inaugurated in the spring of 1942 did much to soften the Nazis for ultimate defeat. The British had learned from the Nazi raids on England and from their own attacks on Germany during 1941 that small raids directed at specific military installations did little lasting harm to the enemy. Saturation bombing of an entire city, however, served to disrupt all activity, civilian and military, and a raid of great proportions might permanently knock out a major city.

This new strategy of air attack was first tried out against the Baltic cities of Rostock and Lubeck. Both were shipping centers, and in addition Lubeck served as a submarine base and Rostock was a production point for airplanes and submarines. The port of Lubeck, through which passed war materials of all sorts, was pulverized in a raid on the night of March 28; half of the city of 150,000 was razed. On April 24 and three successive nights thereafter, Rostock was pounded by hundreds of tons of bombs. Fires started the first night were visible for ninety miles and lighted the way for the bombers on the following nights.

In an address delivered May 10, Prime Minister Churchill used these raids for propaganda purposes in Germany: "We have a long list of German cities in which the vital industries of the German war machine are established. All these it will be our stern duty to deal with, as we have already dealt with Lubeck, with Rostock and half a dozen important bases. The civilian population of Germany have, however, an easy way to escape from these severities. All they have to do is to leave the cities where munitions work is being carried on, abandon their work and go out into the fields, and watch the home fires burning. In this way they may find time for meditation and repentance . . . There they may remember that it is the villainous Hitlerite regime which is responsible for dragging Germany through misery and slaughter to ultimate ruin and that the tyrant's overthrow is the first step to world liberation."

Yet three weeks later, the bombing of Cologne, on May 30, and of Essen, on June 2, made the blasting of Lubeck and Rostock look like hit and run raids. Cologne, with a population of 768,000, was the transportation and industrial center of the Ruhr, the home of chemical and munition works. This fifth city of the Third Reich lay closer than any other major German city to England, and it, therefore, was a particularly well chosen target for the first air attack in history by a concentration of more than a thousand bombers. On the night of May 30, 1942, at sixty airfields scattered over England, 100,000 men worked at loading bombs into the bays of the heavy Stirlings, Halifaxes, and Manchesters and the lighter Beauforts, Bostons, and Hampdens. Some six thousand airmen flew in the thousand bombers and the two hundred smaller planes. The smaller planes made diversionary strikes at targets along the way, but a thousand planes took turns at dropping two-ton projectiles on the city of Cologne for a period of ninety minutes. In all, three thousand tons of bombs hit their mark.

Three days later 1,036 planes dropped another three thousand tons of explosives on a second Ruhr city, Essen, the seat of the Krupp armament industry. By any previous standard the British would not have had time to service their planes between the Cologne and Essen raids, but by some miracle the two assaults had been managed. The hopes for a sustained air offensive on this scale were to prove to be too optimistic; although only forty-four planes had been lost over Cologne and only thirty-five in the Essen raid, the drain on manpower, planes, repair parts, and aviation gasoline was too great for nightly sweeps with a thousand planes.

Despite all efforts of the Goebbels propaganda machine, the extent of the devastation to Cologne and Essen could not be concealed. The cloud of smoke that arose from the fires could be seen for a hundred miles, and for several days after the raids the pall of smoke was so thick that reconnaissance pilots were unable to take photographs. The square miles of rubble and the mass exodus of the inhabitants were testimonials to the success of the attacks, no matter how Dr. Goebbels might attempt to minimize the damage.

This time it was Air Marshal Sir Arthur T. Harris, chief of Great Britain's Bomber Command, who gave voice to an English warning to Germany. Late in July, he broadcast in German, sketching the rise of Allied air power, foretelling the increase of British bomber output, and predicting the doubling and redoubling of American production. He made mention of the arrival in England of a United States air force. Then he made a solemn promise: "It's not revenge, although we cannot forget Warsaw, Rotterdam, Belgrade, London, Plymouth, and Coventry. We are bombing Germany city by city, ever more terribly, in order to make it impossible for you to go on with the war. That's our objective, and we shall pursue it remorselessly. . . . You have no chance. Soon we shall be coming over every night, rain, blow or snow—we and the Americans. We are going to scourge the Third Reich from end to end."

In appealing to the German people to end the bombing by overthrowing the Nazis and making peace, both Prime Minister Churchill and Air Marshal Harris were drawing heavily on a technique used to great advantage during the First World War. Then Woodrow Wilson, as spokesman for the Allies, had been worth several armies to the Allied cause by dividing the German people and their Prussian leaders with his speeches. Neither in 1942 nor later was such a division brought about; not until Germany was overrun was the Nazi will to resist broken.

The combined Allied air forces were to keep up a relentless air assault on Hitler's Europe until a total German defeat was achieved. On the night that Sir Arthur Harris spoke, July 28, 1942, Hamburg was assailed by four hundred Lancaster four-motored bombers. Factories and docks of this center of U-boat building were pounded. The next night Saarbrucken, source of coal, iron, and steel, was hit hard. On July 31 the big industrial and steel center of 500,000 inhabitants, Dusseldorf, was subjected to a saturation attack by six hundred bombers. An official Air Ministry release gave this calmly dramatic description of the Dusseldorf raid: "Dusseldorf lay quiet as the first of the bombers came over. One Lancaster pilot . . . described the flight over the silent and apparently unresisting city. . . . There were no guns and no searchlights. The Lancasters dropped bombs that were the first of many thousands. So clear was the night that the flash of the heaviest bombs was astonishingly brilliant. But even more dramatic was the sudden answer of the defenses. Hundreds of searchlights came on at once. The sky was filled with bursting shells. To overcome such opposition it was necessary that bombs fall in a ceaseless rain. They did." One hundred and fifty "blockbusters" and 200,000 incindiaries were in that ceaseless rain.

The rain kept up through August. Another six hundred plane raid was made on Kassel, the production center for locomotives,

air craft, and engines. Nine hundred miles were traveled to blast the submarine base of Gdynia in the Polish Corridor. The Diesel engine factories of Nurmberg were the target for one night, followed by airdromes in Belgium, docks at Ostend, a power station at Lille. All elements of the German transportation system came in for special attention with the result that efficiency was vitally cut down and important freight began to clog warehouses, yards, and canals. By the first of September, British officials were able to announce that the August raids had laid waste six square miles in nine German cities, that five hundred war factories had been smashed, and that over a million Nazis had been made homeless. And Nazi retaliatory raids were surprisingly weak. The German planes came to Britain, but they hit back so weakly that it became increasingly obvious that the *Luftwaffe* was not what it used to be.

At that juncture the weight of the United States Air Force began to be felt. The United States Eighth Air Force, organized in January, 1942, had arrived in England by July, but not until August 17 did it complete a mission of its own over Europe. Major General Ira C. Eaker, the commander of the Eighth Air Force, announced in March, 1943, that the first six months of his organization's existence were largely experimental; and not for many months thereafter were the Americans able to achieve full partnership with the RAF.

Nazi propaganda, try as Dr. Goebbels might, could not cover up the devastating effect of the Allied air offensive of 1942. Reconnaissance planes, aerial photographs, Allied agents, secret anti-Nazi radio announcements, official German admissions, and neutral observers all told the same story of cities made uninhabitable, wide areas demolished, and industrial effort stalled. Eight of Germany's thirty-five key cities had become liabilities: Lubeck, Rostock, Cologne, Emden, Wilhelmshaven, Mainz, Karlsruhe, and Dusseldorf. In other cities block after block had been reduced to rubble: in Essen, Bremen, Hamburg, Saarbrucken, Kiel, Munich, Osnabruck, Kassel, Duisburg, Oberhausen, and Munster.

During the peak of the Nazi air *blitz* in England, the greatest weight of bombs used by the Germans in a single raid amounted to 450 tons. Cologne, Essen, and Bremen each suffered from three thousand tons dropped in one night, and most of the other cities of the Reich received more severe poundings than the 450-ton raids. The number of bombers used at one time by the RAF was triple the maximum strength mustered by the Nazis. With 150,000 buildings destroyed, 300,000 homes leveled, and over a million people made homeless, the German people found it difficult to forget Hermann Goering's promise, made at the outset of the war, that no enemy plane would be permitted to fly over Germany.

That the Allied air forces were capable of no greater attacks on Germany in 1942 may in large part be attributed to the heavy demand for planes in all of the fighting fronts. The Pacific theatre was growing more insistent for planes, and each sector of the European theatre was equally urgent in its requests. In Russia, in North Africa, in the Battle of the Atlantic, planes were needed to support land and sea operations. The western air front against Germany had to share with all others, and nightly raids using a thousand planes would have to await increased production and shortened lines of combat.

Planes were particularly useful in the Battle of the Atlantic against the Nazi submarines preying on Allied merchant shipping. The German U-boat in 1917 had been a powerful and menacing weapon; the submarine of 1942 came even closer to the fulfilment of German hopes than did the First World War variety. By the end of 1942 it began to appear that the Nazi submarine warfare might indefinitely delay the delivery of American men and materials to Europe, that it might, possibly, bring the war to an unsatisfactory stalemate. For that reason the United States pressed every available plane into service for patrol duty over the Atlantic, and over a million and a half men were thrown into the struggle.

By the end of 1942, developments in North Africa and Russia were to make it clear that Hitler had no reason to hope for a quick victory. *Blitzkrieg* broke down in Russia; defeat stalked the Nazis in Africa. Yet the United States, well on its way to total mobilization, was in danger of being immobilized by the sinking of ships and the resultant inability to make its full strength felt in the British Isles, in Russia, or in Africa.

The Nazis themselves seemed to realize that the submarine was their chief hope. A war of attrition might cause such wastage that the Allied nations would be forced by public opinion to request a negotiated peace. In any case, the war could be prolonged by the U-boats. "They hope to drag out the war," George Fielding Eliot wrote at the first of the year 1942, "until we all sicken of the strain and the slaughter, and then make peace with us on terms which will allow them to retain some modicum of power, some modicum of prestige and standing. . . ."

The stress placed by the German High Command on submarine warfare was indicated by the elevation of Admiral Karl Doenitz, the U-boat wizard, to the position of commander-in-chief of the Reich navy. He replaced Grand Admiral Erich Raeder, the "big ship" advocate. As he assumed command, early in 1943, Doenitz thus stated his policy: "The entire German navy will henceforth be put into the service of inexorable U-boat warfare. The German navy will fight to a finish." The new commander saw to it that all naval construction, save submarine building, was brought to an end. A submarine per day was launched thereafter, new crews were kept in training, great bomb-proof underground garages were built.

The four hundred submarines plying the Atlantic during the Second World War were far more efficient machines of destruction than were their counterparts of the First World War. They were fast; they could make twenty knots on the surface, almost double the speed of merchant vessels. Their Diesel engines enabled them to cruise 15,000 miles without refueling. And they were equipped with deadly weapons, such as the acoustical torpedo with its clever steering mechanism. The "brain" of these projectiles directed the explosive to the target; attracted by sound the accoustical torpedo would make every turn made by a dodging ship and then move in for the kill.

Admiral Doenitz was the originator of a tactic of submarine warfare that tremendously increased the effectiveness of the Nazis' number one weapon. His strategy was to have the U-boats operate not singly or in small groups but in large "wolf packs" of from six to twelve. The wolf packs sank over 400 ships during the first year of the war, and in the following year they struck down three times as many ships as the Allies produced. Thus before the American entrance into the war in December, 1941, the U-boats were at the point of neutralizing the effects of Lend-Lease.

The smashing attack on Pearl Harbor incalculably increased the difficulties of coping with the submarine menace. Naval equipment that could have seen service against the wolf packs was destroyed, and two oceans had to be patrolled with less than a one-ocean navy. Doenitz at once sought our soft spot, found it, and promptly struck home. This new hunting ground was along the Atlantic seaboard of North America, the wolf packs ranging from Newfoundland to the islands of the Caribbean. Ships along the eastern coast of the United States were especially hard hit.

The success of the submarine campaign in American waters was phenomenal. The unsuspecting merchant ships were targets difficult to miss. The U-boats sometimes surfaced in sight of shore to shell their prey. By June 1, 1942, east coast shipping had been paralyzed from Portland, Maine, to Key West, and marine insurance companies were desperate. In the first six months after Pearl Harbor, over two hundred American ships were sunk along the coast, wreckage piling up on the shore and the tell-tale oil slicks becoming a common sight. In the month of May nine ships were sunk in the Gulf of Mexico, some in sight of shore. Port cities sometimes saw survivors loaded into ambulances.

The Nazi wolf packs had other objectives than the paralyzing of coastal shipping in the United States. Their principal purposes included the starving of Great Britain and Russia and the prevention of the flow of goods to England, to North Africa, and to Murmansk in Russia. Bases in Norway were used effectively by the U-boats, and German air patrols over the northern supply routes kept the underseas captains informed about the approach of Allied ships.

Losses mounted in the American coastal region and on the high seas until ships began to be sunk at a greater rate than they could be built. The exact amount of the tonnage lost and the correct number of ships sunk remained an official secret, but the admissions of the Allies and the claims of the Germans indicated that for the year 1942 the U-boats just about canceled the efforts of shipyard workers. The *Christian Science Monitor* in January, 1943, estimated that a million tons of shipping per month were being sunk, a figure that equalled the combined output of American and British shipyards. In 1942 no less than 1,160 of our ships were sent to the ocean's bottom.

The year 1942 saw the submarine at its most effective peak. Within a year, however, the back of the wolf pack had been broken. The answer to submarine warfare was the convoy system; convoys had been a solution in 1917, and again they proved effective. An innovation was the use of aerial reconnaissance to spot the U-boats, and the planes and surface ship escorts proved more than adequate to meet the submarine's challenge. The transfer of men and materials from the British Isles to North Africa in October and November of 1942 demonstrated the strength of a convoy with air cover, for of the 850 ships that participated in that operation only one was lost.

In due course the shortage of planes and destroyers that embarrassed Allied leaders at the outset of the war was overcome by production increases. Small aircraft carriers were sent to mid-Atlantic to furnish the scouting planes for the area that land-based planes could not reach. Thereafter the convoys got through despite all efforts to stop them.

At the close of the war, an examination of the files of Admiral Doenitz revealed that Nazi production difficulties prevented the construction of sufficient new submarines to replace those sunk by Allied action. As Allied seamen, aided by the new products of the scientific laboratories, learned how to combat the U-boats, the sinkings doubled and then doubled again. Although submarine construction had top priority in Germany, Doenitz could not get all the materials he needed. He asked for 2,600 tons of lead early in 1943, but he could obtain only 1,727 tons. He requested 2,200 tons of aluminum and received less than 1,700 tons. His demand

for 183,000 tons of steel was pared to 137,000 tons. The loss of the production race with the Allies eventually cost Germany the victory in the naval war.

The contrast in the fortunes of the Allies in the contest for control of the air and in the Battle of the Atlantic indicates why the year 1942 cannot be taken as the year in which the tide of the was turned definitely in favor of the Allies. The battle of production actually decided the air battle over Europe and the sea battle in the Atlantic. All of these struggles, therefore, had to wait until a later year to determine the issue. It still was just the "end of the beginning."

CHAPTER VIII

End of the Beginning On the Home Front

Since the writers of history in telling the story of the wars of the past customarily exclude all references to the daily lives of the people, the impression is often held that all of the thoughts and activities of the average citizen in war-time center around the tactics of the generals and their campaigns. The battles and the generals, the war measures and the administrators, the treaties and the diplomats, all are indispensable adjuncts to a war; but it is not beyond the realm of possibility that residents of New England may have lived through the period of the American Revolution without having heard of Robert Morris, George Rogers Clark, or even George Washington. For that matter, some dwellers of the Cumberland Mountain area may have lived through the 1770s and 1780s without having heard of the Revolution.

Since the time of the American Revolution, warfare has changed from the use of a small body of professional soldiers to more nearly an approximation of a total mobilization of the nation, and as a consequence only the most exclusive of hermits could have failed to feel the impact of the Second World War. All men between the ages of eighteen and sixty-five had to register under the Selective Service Act although none over forty-five was ever called. One man in ten was drafted for military duty. And all left untouched by a summons to active service had occasion to learn that a war was going on by paying higher taxes, having to do without peacetime goods and foods, learning to accept a philosophy of guns instead of butter.

Not that the American people ever knew actual privation. Some had to walk more and ride less, others had to forego a second cup of coffee and had to use one lump of sugar instead of two. Yet in America it never came to a rigid choice of guns instead of butter; rather it was a case of more guns and less butter. Those who had an abundance of money and a scarcity of scruples, moreover, did not have to worry about shortages at all; many actually boasted of their cleverness in outsmarting those who sought to ration rare consumer goods. To many the horrors of war consisted principally of rayon hose and slow restaurant service.

The truth is that a great number of Americans never took World War II seriously. They saw in the conflict and the ready cash that went with it an opportunity to make a "killing," and to them the war's length and its casualty lists were unimportant items. Fortunately for the peace of mind of those who participated in the war, this type of war profiteer was a comparatively rare species.

Yet the people as a whole, in striking contrast to the adherents of Woodrow Wilson during the First World War, steadfastly refused to look upon the Second World War as a crusade. As the American people are prone to do, they sought justification for the war; they accepted the point of view that the Allies, or the "United Nations," were linked in a struggle for the Four Freedoms which were vaguely understood to be guarantees of "our way of life," whatever that might mean. Never, however, was a war of such proportions fought with less of an outward display of fervor and enthusiasm. At motion picture theatres the public would offer warm applause at sight of the American flag, and a perfunctory handclap usually greeted the picture of the President or one of his generals. Beyond that the people refused to go.

Much of the American public, moreover, maintained a casual attitude toward the news of the war. Despite the annoyances of a frequently misguided war censorship, the news gathering agencies of the press and radio performed minor miracles in disseminating information with speed and accuracy. Millions of Americans listened and read avidly, for the turn of a battle might mean life or death to their sons. Others, of course, found the news reports interesting because of their desire to keep abreast of events. Many, however, felt that they had given the war enough of their time when they had read Ernie Pyle's daily human interest story of the battlefront and had listened to Walter Winchell's weekly quarter-hour of frenzy. Some newspaper readers indeed appear to have made their closest approach to the war from a perusal of such comic strips as "Terry and the Pirates" and "Buz Sawyer," where incidentally the less literate of Americans actually may have learned for the first time an appreciation of military and naval aviation.

Americans throughout the war sought to escape from the grim realities of the day. Those who had strong personal reasons for maintaining a continuous interest in the struggle were almost as eager for escapist literature and amusements as were those who wanted to put the war out of their minds completely. One need not be a psychiatrist to be able to make a case for the cathartic values of breaking the monotony of war, but one can only wish in view of the seriousness of the time the purveyors and the purchasers of escape had made high standards and good taste the rule rather than the exception.

Too frequently a house was crowded and tickets were sold weeks in advance for such a farce as "Good Night Ladies," distinguished solely for its unrelieved vulgarity. "The Doughgirls" and "The Voice of the Turtle" were popular comedies of a somewhat higher type, but their level was painfully low. "Kiss and Tell," "Junior Miss," "Dear Ruth," and "Harvey" rounded out the list of plays that a theatre patron during the war years must see "for a good laugh." Two musical offerings enjoyed a more deserved popularity: the stirring delightful "Oklahoma" and "Carmen Jones," a stirring version of the Bizet opera done in a modern Negro setting. Among the more serious plays the public endorsed by its attendance were "Harriet," "Anna Lucasta," "Tomorrow the World," "The Eve of St. Mark," "Jacobowsky and the Colonel." and a "Bell for Adano."

Motion picture houses were as crowded during the war years as were the theatres and with as little reason. "My Gal Sal," "The Miracle of Morgan's Creek," "The More the Merrier," "Bathing Beauty," and a host of other light comedies had the merit of taking the onlooker away from the grimness of war for two hours, but an equally long nap would have sometimes served the patron better. "Meet Me in St. Louis," "Holiday Inn," "Holy Matrimony," "Saboteur," "National Velvet," "Gaslight," "The Uninvited," and "For Whom the Bell Tolls," ranging from musical comedy to a story of the supernatural, are representative of the varied interests of the war period. Animated cartoons were as popular as ever, "Bambi" and "The Three Caballeros" receiving particular acclaim. "The Keys to the Kingdom," "Going My Way," and "The Song of Bernadette" were motion pictures with a religious theme that were well received. Occasional essays into the field of biography proved unprofitable; "Madame Curie" and the superior "Woodrow Wilson" were given cool receptions.

Military subjects were frequently used by movie producers, "This Is the Army" and "See Here, Private Hargrove" depicting the lighter side, and such pictures as "Cry Havoc," "Wake Island," "Mrs. Miniver," "30 Seconds Over Tokyo," "Destination Tokyo," and "They Were Expendable" presenting the less agreeable aspects. Documentary films, usually prepared in cooperation with some branch of the service, were often superbly compiled and edited; but the exhibitors frequently made the mistake of showing them in connection with some other picture, the length of the show made everyone restless. Thus were wasted the educational and editorial values of "The World at War," a series which included the "Battle of Britain," "The Battle of Russia," and "The Battle of China," of "The Fighting Lady," and "Brought to Action," and many others.

Radio programs, aside from the news features, changed little with the advent of war. No new note of seriousness was evident, except when the radio comedian, at the conclusion of a half-hour of inanity, urged the purchase of war bonds or gave voice to an appreciation of the sacrifices of the boys in the foxholes. The old favorites, Jack Benny, Fred Allen, Bob Hope, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, "Fibber" McGee and Molly, Eddie Cantor, and Bing Crosby were joined by Joan Davis and Cass Dailey, and all went serenely on with their tomfoolery knowing that their listeners were thoroughly enjoying the same jokes and situations that had been used over and over for years. An almost sadistic delight was taken in shows like "Truth or Consequences" or "People Are Funny" in which apparently sane participants weekly accepted invitations to make idiots of themselves. Quiz programs on the order of "Information Please" and "Dr. I. Q." continued to be popular. Advertising by way of radio remained dismally disagreeable, sinking to new depths with "singing commercials."

One of the striking failures of radio, and of the Tin Pan Alley sources of radio music, was their inability to find a song for World War II. Nothing was written to match "Over There," "Long, Long Trail," "Pack Up Your Troubles," "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," or even "K-K-Katy" of the First World War. Perhaps the absence of crusading zeal made such songs as "Remember Pearl Harbor," "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition," "We Did It Before and We Can Do It Again," and "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree" less popular than "Over There"

or possibly there simply was no George M. Cohan available in 1942. Irving Berlin was still on hand, however, and his "This Is the Army, Mr. Jones" caught the spirit of the training camp soldier. This war also brought forth "You're a Sap, Mr. Jap" and "We're Going to Find a Fellow Who Is Yellow and Beat Him Red, White, and Blue" on which comment hardly seems necessary.

By no means were all radio programs or all radio musical offerings presented without taste or imagination News coverage was excellent and a number of commentators, including H. V. Kaltenborn, Drew Pearson, Earl Godwin, and Elmer Davis, helped to interpret the dispatches to a large body of listeners. On some occasions, such as the opening day of the war at Honolulu and at Manila and the Allied invasion of Normandy, the radio spokesmen and technicians gave to the public word pictures as vivid as the events they described. One program "The Town Meeting of the Air," gave a weekly hearing to the principal issues of the day in a manner that was a tribute to its sponsors. Many musical presentations brought the best in the popular and light opera fields, and others featured grand opera and the symphonies.

An encouraging development of the Second World War was the refusal of the people to engage in the same sort of senseless witch hunts that had been characteristic of World War I. This time the composers of Germany and Italy lost none of their popularity, and the names of Wagner and Verdi could be mentioned aloud and their works could be played and sung without an audience walking out or writing in letters of protest. "Madame Butterfly" was the only operatic war casualty, and it was withdrawn because of its theme rather than because of the nationality of Puccini.

Business boomed in other amusement fields besides the stage, the cinema, the radio, and the music hall. Dance pavilions, skating rinks, circuses, race tracks, and bars had to turn crowds away. The heavy death tolls in the tragic fires in the Cocoanut Grove dance hall in Boston and in the Ringling Brothers Circus in Hartford indicate the throngs always on hand at such entertainments. Sports suffered from the loss to the military services of their best performers, but even without Joe Di Maggio, Ted Williams, and Bob Feller baseball still drew crowds that rivalled those of prewar days. Football, for all the discouragements of transportation, rationing, and the draft, continued to pack college stadiums.

Only the churches seemed to suffer from a falling off in attendance, yet this should not be taken as evidence that things spiritual lost ground during the course of the war. There are many indications that the people took refuge in religion throughout the war years. On the day of the invasion of Normandy, churches remained open and millions attended to offer prayers for the safety of the Allied hosts. Religious novels, moreover, were among the best sellers of the war years: *The Robe* by Lloyd C. Douglas, *The Keys of the Kingdom* by A. J. Cronin, *The Apostle* by Sholem Asch, and *The Song of Bernadette* by Franz Werfel.

Other works than those with a religious theme also won popularity. Pearl Buck's *Dragon Seed*, Betty Smith's *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, Marcia Davenport's *The Valley of Decision*, and Lillian Smith's *Strange Fruit* were among the best works of fiction that were widely read. The war and the peace to follow furnished the topics for the non-fictional best sellers: *Brave Men* by Ernie Pyle, *One World* by Wendell L. Willkie, *Guadalcanal Diary* by Richard Tregaskis, *See Here, Private Hargrove* by Marion Hargrove, *They Were Expendable* by W. L. White, and *The Time for Decision* by Sumner Welles. At the same time, however, such masterpieces of vulgarity as *The Sun Is My Undoing* by Marguerite Steen and *Forever Amber* by Kathleen Winsor attracted as many readers as did the more solid non-fiction works combined.

Since Americans during the four years of war found so many varied ways to amuse themselves, the suspicion grew that they were shallow and lacking in both comprehension and compassion. Since they displayed an interest in the cheap and the coarse, they were said to be unworthy of the sacrifices made in their behalf. Since they discussed the adventures of Dick Tracy and Joe Palooka and other comic strip heroes, and eagerly read of the peccadillos of Charlie Chaplin and Errol Flynn and other Hollywood stars, and listened to the "soap operas" of the radio, they were accused of showing indifference to the news of the war. Since this new generation continued to speak well of Goethe, still permitted German to be taught in the schools, and even refused to consider changing the name of sauer kraut to "liberty cabbage," it was questioned whether Americans were sincere in their war effort.

Observers during the war period were undecided what to make of the nation's state of mind. Frederick Lewis Allen in reviewing the first three years of it for *Harper's* confessed to some bewilderment: "Still our attitude toward the war itself appeared curiously matter-of-fact, casual, remote, almost absent-minded. Though in millions of homes there was an excited leap for the V-mail and a great pride in what the local boys were doing at Anzio or Bougainville (or Fort Bragg), one heard little talk about the battlefronts or the war issues as compared with much more immediate subjects as shoe rationing, Frank Sinatra, the Ruml Plan, slow laundry service, the difficulty of hiring anybody to do anything, Bob Hope, the succulence of a remembered beefsteak. To an American freshly returned from any of the theatres of war, life in America still seemed almost unaffected by what was happening overseas."

Allan Nevins shortly after the war's end, however, expressed in *While You Were Gone* an almost antithetical point of view: "Between 1930 and 1940 events taught us that we *do* have a major part to play in shaping the destinies of mankind, and that we cannot escape our responsibility even if we wish to do so. . . . In short, the country had been educated to a conviction that in essentials Woodrow Wilson had been right about the high moral purpose of the First World War, and his critics had been wrong. The two wars were simply successive phases of a grand continuing struggle to save democracy, peace, and the future of mankind. Agreement on this truth was so general as to make a mighty contribution to national unity—and national fervor."

Both Allen and Nevins, despite their contradictory opinions on the American conscience, testify each in his own way to the growing maturity of judgment of the people. If the United States seemed matter-of-fact and casual toward World War II, it must be remembered that this was the nation's second war in twenty-five years. It may well be that the cheers were not as loud in 1941 because we were still hoarse from the celebration of 1918. We might be engaged as the orators told us, in a grand continuing struggle to save democracy, but it was a little disconcerting and embarrassing to hear the same phrases over again so soon.

Instead of being a cause for alarm, the absence of enthusiasm can be a heartening sign, for the zealot can do more harm than good. The avoidance of the mistakes of the First World War when all things German were exorcised was wholly commendable, and in this connection, Frederick Allen qualifies his charge of casualness by stating that "if we seemed to be too easy-going about the war, at least we were spared the unpleasant aspects of war hysteria." Although the treatment of the Japanese-Americans of the West Coast constituted a blot on our national record, fervor in the form of hysteria took hold of us on no other occasions. According to the 1944 report of the Civil Liberties Union "the third year of the war has maintained the extraordinary and unexpected record of the first two years in freedom of debate and dissent on all public issues."

The truth of the matter is that the behavior of the American public during the Second World War was much the same as it had been in the nation's previous conflicts. The tendency has always been for the people to continue to enjoy the same activities to which they were accustomed before the outbreak of war. Varga and Petty pin-up girls were popular before Poland was invaded; it should not be surprising that they were popular with soldiers and civilians during the war years. "Leg art" had been a trump card in advertising for two decades before 1941; it ought not to have been astounding that Marlene Dietrich and Hollywood's glamour girls should become leading sellers of war bonds. People had gone to see "Life With Father," had laughed at Jack Benny, had listened to "Star Dust," had read detective thrillers, had watched Betty Grable before Pearl Harbor; therefore they continued to indulge in those same pleasures after December, 1941. This in no wise lessened their anger at the nature of the Japanese attack, weakened not a jot their determination to win over both Japan and Germany.

One of the evidences that fervor of a visible sort was lacking during the Second World War was that the people never accepted any phrase or slogan on the order of Wilson's "make the world safe for democracy." Not even the name "World War II" was popular, but no better name, including President Roosevelt's "War for Survival," ever gained widespread approval.

In truth, the American people never had an entirely satisfactory spokesman of the Winston Churchill type during the whole of the war. President Roosevelt, with his mellow voice and pleasing personal touch, had won unparalleled approval as an orator through two presidential terms and three campaigns, but now his skill as a turner of phrases appeared to desert him. Although he was much more popular than Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt's war speeches never equalled Wilson's in popularity. Perhaps Roosevelt's audience was harder to please than Wilson's, or possibly Roosevelt's addresses will seem greater after the passage of time, as was the case with Lincoln. Yet the fact is that President Roosevelt did not succeed in the period of the war in saying the things the American people wanted to hear.

Therein may lie the reason for the seeming apathy of the public of which Frederick Allen and many others complained. Not only did the President fail to give utterance to the words that would cause to crystallize the sentiments of the people, but in addition his administration was roundly criticized for mismanagement, bickering, and delay. "Never were people more desperately sick of the bungling and incompetence," wrote Joseph H. Spigelman in January, 1943, "the red tape and buck passing, the frenzied activity that gets nowhere, the flagrant irresponsibility that infest Washington like a plague. Never were people more eager for an organization with courage and imagination." The same writer urged that the prayers of the patriots for forceful leadership be answered: "Devotion to country and the will to victory have never been more widespread nor more deeply felt. . . . It would indeed be tragic if, for failure of responsible leaders to seize the present opportunity, patriotic sentiment and all that is vital in our economy should

remain unorganized until disastrous defeats or the turmoil and disillusion of a specious victory had driven the nation to desperation." And this was from the pen of one who shortly was to accept a position with the Department of Commerce.

"Genius in disorder" has been ascribed to Franklin Roosevelt, and certainly the disorders of his own creation frequently demanded in full measure all the administrative genius he possessed. No one would attempt to belittle the magnificent powers of leadership demonstrated by the President during the Second World War. More than any statesman of the United Nations, he seems to have been able to comprehend the myriad of problems attached to the winning of the war and the peace; his production goals, his diplomatic skill, his military strategy, his long-range planning, his impelling of scientific research, all mark him as a man of world-wide vision.

His was a hypermetropic statesmanship, however, and apparently he was never able to focus his full attention on matters close at hand. As a result there developed a welter of governmental agencies that floundered around too long in attacking crucial problems, while their heads hesitated to act or acted simultaneously on the same matter. Their powers were often loosely defined, and too frequently effective guidance was lacking "No honest friend of Roosevelt," wrote Henry F. Pringle, "can claim that he shone as an administrator. He was terrible."

At the head of the loose hierarchy set up by Franklin Roosevelt was an inner circle of close advisers. Chief among these men was Harry L. Hopkins, personal confidant of the President, Munitions Assignment Board chairman, Lend-Lease administrator, and emissary extraordinary. Another intimate was James F. Byrnes, who was asked to step down from his seat in the Supreme Court to serve in so many capacities that he was accorded the title of Assistant President. Vice President Henry A. Wallace continued to set a new style for forcefulness in his office.

In the Cabinet, Cordell Hull remained as Secretary of State despite failing health, and the work of his department had to be conducted by undersecretaries until he was replaced by Edward Stettinius. Much of the burden of war finance planning from taxes to bond drives fell upon the Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, Jr. The military and naval departments were conducted by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson and Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox. After the death of Knox, the Navy Department was turned over to James Forrestal. Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior; Jesse H. Jones, Secretary of Commerce; Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture; Francis Biddle, Attorney General; Frank C. Walker, Postmaster General, and Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, rounded out the War Cabinet.

In his capacity as commander in chief of the armed forces, President Roosevelt kept in touch with the military services through his personal chief of staff, Admiral William D. Leahy. General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the Army, and Admiral Ernest J. King, Chief of Naval Operations, along with Admiral Leahy, served as an advisory agency in military matters for the President, and on them fell the responsibility of directing the great armed forces of the United States.

The work of this central staff was supplemented by the officers who were in charge of the principal branches of the service. General Leslie J. McNair and his successor, General Ben Lear, were in command of the Army Ground Forces, which supervised the training and distribution of all men in the infantry, artillery, engineers, and similar ground units. General Henry H. Arnold commanded the Army Air Forces in our first great aerial war. General Brehon B. Somervell was in command of the Army Service Forces, directing the acquisition and the allotment of the tremendous stores of supplies needed by all military services and training the men in the quartermaster, ordnance, medical, and other service activities. General A. A. Vandegrift acted as Commandant of the Marine Corps, and Admiral Russell R. Waesche was at the head of the Coast Guard.

The manpower needed by the military services was mobilized under the provision of the Selective Service Act of September, 1940. This first peacetime compulsory training law of the nation's history had given a year of service to a million and a half men by the time Pearl Harbor was bombed. By the close of the war nearly fourteen million had been pressed into active duty, the total army and navy peak strength being approximately twelve million. The directors of Selective Service were Dr. Clarence A. Dykstra and General Lewis B. Hershey.

For the first time in history women were permitted to volunteer for military service. The first women's organization to be authorized was the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps; later the "Auxiliary" was dropped as the WAC became a component of the United States Army. The Navy's WAVES, the Coast Guard's SPARS, and the Women Marines, together with the WACS, numbered over two hundred thousand.

The plan of organization for this extensive military establishment was simple enough and the functions of the several branches were sufficiently distinct that no undue confusion resulted. Mistakes by the million were made, but these errors could not be attributed to faulty executive management. If the President had been able to keep in touch with his civilian administrative boards as well as he succeeded with his military and naval liaison agencies, few charges of delay and confusion could have been leveled at him.

Henry F. Pringle feels that President Roosevelt's unwillingness to get rid of incompetent appointees brought on many of his woes with his newly created war boards. "Among his weaknesses," Pringle wrote in *While You Were Gone*, "was a violent distaste for dismissing men who had failed him. He tried to find excuses. He nearly always compromised by permitting the official to continue on the job, and then created a new agency to do the work." Thus the special war agencies mushroomed; they became so numerous that no one, including the President, could bring order among them. Congress gave up early in the war and resorted to delegating full authority to the President to conduct affairs through executive decrees; yet it never delegated its right to criticize and to obstruct any Presidential action or the activity of any of his war commissions.

A dozen boards were called upon to get America's industrial might mobilized. While the United States was still at peace, the National Defense Advisory Commission was set up, with William S. Knudsen as its chairman. A start on the manufacture of war materials had been made by the time that war came, but full-scale production was still many months away. The NDAC became the OPM, the Office of Production Management, still under the guidance of Knudsen; and its efforts were supplemented by the SPAB, a Supply, Priorities, and Allocations Board which vainly sought to quiet disputes growing out of the shortage of critical war materials. At last some order was achieved with the establishment of the War Production Board with Donald M. Nelson as chairman. Nelson found himself constantly involved in controversy as was perhaps to be expected in his position, but in time the WPB solved the hardest shortage problems and successfully passed the worst crises. Contemporary critics were inclined to give most of the credit for the achievements of WPB to one of Nelson's assistants, Charles Edward Wilson.

The War Production Board had more than enough help. Chairman Harry L. Hopkins and his Munitions Assignment Board, Admiral Emory S. Land and the War Shipping Administration, Colonel J. M. Johnson and the Office of Defense Transportation, and James F. Byrnes and the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion were some of the administrators and agencies that took turns at directing the conversion of automobile plants to tank factories and of typewriter workshops to munition foundries.

In an attempt to assure sufficient workers for all essential manufacturing enterprises, a War Manpower Commission headed by Paul V. McNutt was set up. Nothing more stringent than a loosely enforced regulation forbidding workers to leave their jobs was ever applied by the WMC. Congress meanwhile turned a deaf ear to all proposals for a compulsory labor draft. Another agency, the War Labor Board, under the chairmanship of William H. Davis, strove to keep down labor troubles by arbitrating disputes before they reached the strike stage. The WLB managed to still labor complaints to some extent by working out a plan of wage increases ranging up to fifteen per cent as compensation for the rise in living costs. This formula, originated for "Little Steel" employees, was applied generally as possible throughout all industry.

No ceiling on wages would have lasted very long unless a similar check on prices was established, and this end President Roosevelt tried to achieve through the Office of Price Administration. Its chairman, Leon Henderson, labored earnestly in the face of widespread criticism to combat pressure groups that daily stormed Washington in a concerted effort to force the removal of restrictions. Even with a defective law the OPA held the increase in living costs to twenty-five per cent of the pre-war level, its greatest effectiveness being in the field of rent control where rentals rose only four per cent. In preventing the upswing of prices of foodstuffs the OPA was far less successful; a late start and the partial exemption of agricultural products from the workings of the law permitted a forty-seven per cent increase. At the close of the year 1942, Leon Henderson, tired of the bickering provoked by the OPA, resigned his position, and his headaches were inherited by Chester Bowles.

The Washington lobbyists frequently had the support of the majority of the American people in their attacks on Henderson and Bowles, for it was the OPA that had charge of rationing, and rationing was popular with no one. Tires, coffee, sugar, and gasoline began to be rationed during the first months of war, but not until 1943 was a general ration book put into use. Black markets and under-the-counter sales prevented rationing from being fully effective, yet in spite of these illegalities and the handicaps created by pressure groups and public apathy the OPA was moderately successful in holding the lid on inflation.

The OPA had the cooperation of other agencies in the fight against inflation. Food problems were handled by the War Food Administration, with Marvin Jones at its head. The Office of Economic Stabilization had Fred M. Vinson for its chairman, while Leo T. Crowley was in charge of the Foreign Economic Administration. The commissions sought to develop policies that would preserve the domestic economic structure and stabilize activities of a financial nature in foreign affairs.

In October, 1944, the President finally made tacit admission of the muddle that had been created by the overlapping functions of the war agencies when he named still another agency with over-

all supervisory powers to direct all the war boards. This Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion had James F. Byrnes for its chairman, and in this important post he served as an unofficial Assistant President of the United States.

Next to the OPA and its ration books, the OCD will probably be the war agency longest remembered by the American people. This Office of Civilian Defense, with William N. Haskell as its chairman, organized the civilians to combat enemy invaders. Full precautions against air raids were taken not only in coastal cities but in inland communities as well. Citizens of Little Rock were seriously informed that their city would be one of the first targets for Axis bombers, and the city was accordingly divided into districts each with its watchful air raid warden and crew ready with sirens and sand pails and stirrup pumps. The air raid shelters, the test blackouts, and the first aid courses seem ridiculous today in the light of the Allied victory, but Nazi rocket bombs of longer range and Japanese balloon bombs of greater force might have made the elaborate preparations of the OCD seem wholly inadequate.

None of the war agencies established by President Roosevelt illustrates their confused pattern of development as well as does the Office of War Information. This office under Elmer Davis served to mobilize the talents of the writers of the United States to the end that national war projects were assured of successful promotion both at home and abroad. Successful psychological warfare was conducted by the OWI in France and in Africa, thereby paving the way for Allied invasions. The importance of the OWI, therefore, is easy to perceive, but how it accomplished so much in the face of the problems confronting it at its inception is almost incomprehensible.

The OWI arose out of the OFF, the Office of Facts and Figures. Archibald MacLeish and the Office of Facts and Figures had been named months before to coordinate the work of nine government agencies concerned with the distribution of defense information. These nine agencies included staff members of the Departments of State, Treasury, War, and Navy, the Office of Emergency Management, the Selective Service System, the Office of the Coordinator of Information, the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, and the Office of Government Reports. Since the Office of Facts and Figures was wrongly suspected of the twin taints of propaganda and censorship, it was under constant criticism. Consequently the following words from the New York *Herald Tribune* represent in part its conservative bias, but they also are indicative of the public bewilderment: "OFF will co-ordinate the Office of Coordinator of Information (or OCI), report on the Office of Government Reports (the frequent reference to this as OGRE is just a typographical error), press-agent the innumerable Press Agents of the Individual Departments (often called the PAIDS) and will under no circumstances do anything whatever that anybody else is doing already. . . . When the Office of Utter Confusion and Hysteria (to be referred to as OUCH) has finally been created, then the capstone will have been set upon the pyramid and we can all die happy, strangled in the very best red-tape."

The confusion satirized by the *Herald Tribune* clearly was evident in all departments of the government. It is all the more surprising, therefore, that in the midst of this muddle American industry managed to meet most of the schedules set for it. Despite the fact that nearly half of the manufacturers were still engaged in turning out civilian goods, the impressive figures for war production at the end of the first year of war were indicative of the role industry would ultimately play in achieving victory.

By December, 1942, the amount of war goods being produced was eight times greater than the quantity turned out in 1940. Shipbuilding had increased six times over. The amount of time needed to construct an aircraft carrier had been cut from thirty-four months to seventeen, destroyer construction from eighteen months to six, and battleship construction from five years to three. A completely new $750,000,000 artificial rubber industry had been established within a year of the Japanese seizure of the natural rubber sources, and the shortage of this vital war material had been overcome.

By the end of 1943, nearly nine thousand planes, including a thousand heavy bombers, were being completed monthly. Over 150,000 planes of all types had been put into operation between December, 1941, and December, 1943. At the end of one year of war, American production had overtaken the Axis output, and by 1944 American war manufacture had more than doubled that of the Axis. Marshal Stalin spoke for all the Allies when in 1943 he said that without American production the United Nations could never have won the war.

Now this triumph of American industry in the Battle of Production could not have been achieved if the Roosevelt Administration had done nothing except create confusion and dissatisfaction. It is to be doubted that individual manufacturers, if left to their own devices, would have produced as much or as well. Leon Henderson charged in September, 1942, that the nation had "not yet chosen between victory and personal profit," and one may question whether America would have ever given victory a priority had not the war agencies forced the idea of personal profit at least to a small degree into the background.

The President demonstrated in his Labor Day speech of 1942 that he was capable of formulating vigorous policies, and the Anti-Inflation Law passed at his insistence the following month was an effective device in securing stabilization. Had the President devoted more of his attention to such domestic matters, the chaos of mismanagement created by the war boards need not have been.

This then was the American home front in the first year of war and in the years thereafter. The interests and desires of the American people presented a confused pattern, a mixture of all that was fine and noble and all that was petty and mean. When they looked to Washington for guidance, only too often they saw a tangle of agencies that bickered and fought instead of leading. Evidence abounded that all groups were primarily concerned with the main chance, that everywhere profit and not sacrifice prevailed. Yet whatever their motives, Capital and Labor, imperfectly directed —but directed—by the Administration, contrived to turn out a flow of war materials that in time was to sweep the Axis from its position of power. The full industrial strength of America had not been mobilized by the end of 1942, but again it could be said that the end of the beginning was at hand.

CHAPTER IX

End of the Beginning: The Military Fronts

The Battle of Production won, the United Nations next had to turn their energies to the Battle of Supply. The problems of time and space had to be solved before the success in the conversion and expansion of industry could be exploited. The conquest of distances was as essential to Allied victory as the establishment of a second front in Europe, for until the stores of supplies could be piled high in England and Russia and Africa, the Axis nations would still stand.

Nowhere was the tremendous scope of the struggle of supply better illustrated than in the Middle East, and the prodigious labors of the men of the Persian Gulf Command in delivering the goods to Soviet Russia were almost in a class by themselves. The blood and tears of the war the Persian Gulf Command avoided, for these troops were not in a combat area, but the sweat of which Churchill made mention was theirs in unlimited quantities. The incredible heat of Iran was a terrible enemy; but the difficult terrain of that country offered the best route into Russia, better by far than the submarine-patrolled Arctic and the plane-ridden Mediterranean.

So on December 11, 1942, the first large detachment of the Persian Gulf Command landed, nine thousand strong. Within the next few months some twenty thousand others arrived in Iran, and the battle to supply Russia began. The Russian hosts were at that time engaged in a death struggle to save Stalingrad, and the products of the American factories were desperately needed. In temperatures ranging up to 135° the supplies were unloaded by the Americans at the ports and hauled by truck and railroad to Russian terminals.

Amazing amounts of materials were unloaded and hauled and delivered. Four and one-half million tons were turned over to the Russians, including munitions, clothing, food, medicine, and machinery. Piece by piece, part by part, an entire Ford plant was trucked in for reassembly. No less than 143,000 vehicles were transported from the United States to Russia by the Persian Gulf route: "trucks, command cars, jeeps, weapons carriers, half-tracks, wreckers, rolling shops, ambulances, and even fire engines." Thanks to the Persian Gulf Command, Premier Stalin was able to toast American industry and extoll the part it played in winning the war. As Joel Sayre sums up the importance of this Command's work: "By doing what it did, it helped earn this country precious time to prepare and saved an incalculable number of American lives, and it should be credited with a colossal assist in the destruction of a large part of the German Army."

Meanwhile the work of the Persian Gulf Command was being supplemented by other units in the Services of Supply. The British Isles became a great storehouse of all the materials of war, from the heaviest of machines to the smallest of medicine vials. Britain also became the repository for the manpower of America; each month saw new transport loads pour ashore. Finally, after nearly a year of preparation, the Allies were ready to strike.

The end of the beginning was fully achieved on all fronts late in 1942. This apt phrase was originated by Winston Churchill near the close of the year as he reviewed the events of the war: "Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." In these words, the Prime Minister was warning that it was too early to look for a turning point in the war. It could be said, however, that the stage of

preparation was over and that the fight could now be carried to the enemy.

The enemy by the close of 1942 had been met and stopped short of victory twice. Once was at Midway in the Pacific, and the second time was at Stalingrad. On three occasions the United Nations launched attacks of their own and won impressive victories: at El Alamein in Africa in October; next on Guadalcanal in October and November; and finally in northwest Africa in November. In all of those operations, both offensive and defensive, the Allies demonstrated their growing power and their increasing ability to mass that power at the proper time and place. It was no longer a case of "too little and too late."

Yet the battles of 1942 at first appeared to give promise of a continuation of Axis victories. The Germans in offensives launched in the early summer won victories in Russia and Africa that matched the Japanese advances through the islands of the Pacific. Nevertheless an important change in German strategy could be observed, a change from the use of an unlimited to a limited objective. Hitler's previous battles had striven for the sudden and complete conquest of whole nations. The Battle of Britain and the first phase of the Battle of Russia, however, had demonstrated that *blitzkrieg* could be beaten, and thereafter the Nazis narrowed the scope of their plans.

This time the German armies concentrated simply on the subjugation of the Caucasus. The conquest of this area, together with the lower Volga and the northwestern shore of the Caspian Sea, would have been a severe blow to Soviet Russia. It would have meant the loss of the oil of Baku, and it would have closed the Persian Gulf supply route through Iran. These would have been important victories, but they were scarcely in the Nazi pattern of *blitzkrieg*.

The winter months of 1941 and early 1942 had taught the Germans not to plan on any quick sweeping success in Russia. The Nazi advances during the summer and autumn of 1941, their capture of Novgorod, Kiev, Odessa, Kharkov, and Rostov, their laying siege to Sevastopol, all had been achievements in the best Prussian tradition; but the ensuing winter campaign cost the Germans heavily and forced, for the first time during World War II, Hitler's legions to fall back in retreat.

Yet as November, 1941, drew to a close, Adolf Hitler appeared to believe that the Battle of Russia had been won. He let it be known that his armies would spend Christmas in Leningrad and Moscow, and he announced that Alfred Rosenberg would be the Reich's Minister for the East to govern the occupied territories of Russia. He did not go so far as to name a *gauleiter* for the whole of the Soviet Union; his overconfidence did not run quite that far ahead of his troops.

Final large-scale thrusts were thereupon aimed at the two key Russian cities. These attacks pressed ever closer to their objectives at first, but long before Christmas the Russians had forced the Nazis to make other plans for celebrating the festive season. Fresh Soviet troops were brought in from the Siberian garrisons, and these reinforcements were used as the sprearhead of counteroffensives throughout the whole length of the front. Marshal Timoshenko, who was moved to the south to halt the Nazis rushing past Rostov, not only stopped them but threw them back and recaptured Rostov. The city was actually in German hands only a week, from November 22 to November 29.

The Nazis claimed that the evacuation of Rostov was for the purpose of diverting troops toward Moscow, but this the Red armies gave the lie to by promptly driving the Germans fifty miles farther back from Rostov and by breaking through the encircling lines around Leningrad and Moscow. The triumphant Russians also regained ground in the Crimea; they marched back into Kerch and Theodosia, and they threw the enemy back from Sevastopol. On December 8, Hitler had to make the humiliating announcement: "The German army does not expect to take Moscow this winter."

Lame excuses were offered to the German people. The Nazi armies, it was explained, were withdrawing at certain points in Russia so that their lines could be straightened. They would wait out the severe winter weather and open a new offensive in the spring. As little as possible was said of the losses in men and equipment, but Hitler admitted that the number of casualties, including dead, wounded, and missing, was in excess of 600,000. Sidney B. Fay, making an additional allowance for the frost-bitten, estimates that the total was at least 1,000,000.

For the sub-zero temperatures of the hard Russian winter the Germans were completely unprepared. A measure of the suffering of the Nazi armies can be learned from Propaganda Minister Goebbels' plea of December 20 for contributions of clothing for the troops in Russia: "As long as a single object of winter clothing remains in the Fatherland it must go to the front. I know that also in the homeland the individual can spare such equipment only with great difficulty. He is not in a position to replace it. But a thousand times more urgently do our soldiers need such equipment, which they cannot replace." All of which leads one to wonder why Adolf Hitler never bothered to make a more careful study of the military campaigns of Napoleon Bonaparte; true it is that the Fuehrer was clearly a poor student of history, but the mistake made by his French predecessor in failing to take into account the Russian winter should have taught a lesson plain enough to be understood even by an intuitive strategist.

Full admission that the Russian campaign was going badly was made by Hitler when he made public the removal of a number of the generals directing the armies on the eastern front. Field Marshal Fedor von Bock and Field Marshal Walther von Brauchitsch were relieved of their commands, and Hitler himself took over the leadership of his armies. Amazingly enough, the official announcement of December 22, made reference to his famed mystical intuition: "The vastness of the theatre of war, the close connection of the conduct of land operations with the political and economic war aims, and also the numerical size of the army compared with other parts of the armed forces have induced the Fuehrer to follow his intuitions and to influence in the strongest possible manner the operation and equipment of the army and to reserve to himself personally all essential decisions in this sphere." "*Sic transit gloria mundi*s the Junker gave way to a hunch.

Again, however, Hitler's intuitions failed him in Russia; apparently his second sight operated less accurately in blinding snowstorms. Throughout the remaining months of winter the Nazi steam-roller remained stalled, and the Russians successfully kept up their steady pressure against German advance units. During January, 1942, the Soviet forces continued to make minor gains along the whole of the front. The only city of size retaken by the Reds at the opening of the new year was Mozhaisk, lying sixty miles west of Moscow; there they claimed that nearly 100,000 casualties had been inflicted on the Germans. In the succeeding months of the winter, Nazi pockets were surrounded at Rzhev and Kharkov, but the Russians failed in all attempts to dislodge them.

With the coming of spring the Soviet Union and all the Allies braced themselves for Hitler's promised offensive. February 26, Ambassador Maxim Litvinov gave voice to the feelings of Russia in an address in New York: "He is preparing for a spring offensive, and he thoroughly understands the importance of the eastern campaign, which should settle not merely his own fate but that of the whole Axis. He knows that he will either win this campaign, and win all, or he will lose it and lose all. We should like our Allies and friends to see this as clearly as Hitler does, and to act accordingly." The United States and Great Britain did see and act; war materials were hurried to Russia as rapidly as possible, and the air raids on Germany were increased in intensity and frequency. Yet the Persian Gulf Command's supply line to Russia was still a year away, and not even the thousand-plane raids of the next few months could be reckoned a second front. This new German onslaught found the Russians standing virtually alone.

It proved to be a summer rather than a spring offensive. The Soviet counterattacks during the winter had already weakened the Germans to some extent, and continued small scale operations kept the Nazis on the defensive through the month of April. In the northern and central sectors of the front, the Russians scored heavily enough to delay the Germans in their efforts to get an attack in the grand manner under way. All through the winter and spring the invaders were allowed no rest, and it was May before they were ready to strike again.

The persistent hold the Germans had maintained on the extreme southern end of the front through the winter had given an indication of the spot they would choose for their new assault when it did come. In the Crimea the city of Sevastopol still suffered from the siege that had been in progress since mid-November, and as a preliminary to winding up that action, the Germans began a drive to clear the Russians out of the entire peninsula. On May 8, 1942, Kerch was attacked and by May 19 it had fallen to the Germans.

Then the Nazis turned on Sevastopol for a show-down struggle. The battle for the great port began on June 5, heavy artillery shelling and aerial bombardments tearing at the heart of the city. A Russian officer reported: "There is no town left. The houses are all roofless, the streets are nearly all blocked by avalanches of rubble." Still the defenders fought on and made the victory as costly as possible for the Germans and their Rumanian allies. 35,000 Nazi casualties had been counted in the December assault, and more than twice that number had been added before the big Black Sea naval base fell to the Germans on July 3, 1942.

The protracted siege of Sevastopol was another upset to the Hitler timetable in Russia, for not until the Crimean campaign was brought to a close could the Germans swing northward toward Stalingrad and Moscow. After the fall of Sevastopol, they opened in earnest their belated campaign, but they were midsummer battles that Hitler had planned to have won before the end of spring. This meant that important time had been gained for the Allies to continue with their long-range preparations for victory, and thus it constituted a substantial contribution to the ultimate triumph of the United Nations.

The Nazis now began to intensify their pressure up and down the front, but it was in the south that the fighting continued to be the bloodiest, with the triangle formed by Rostov, Kharkov, and Stalingrad witnessing a series of bitterly contested engagements. That triangle of earth was extremely important, for in it lay the great river arteries, the Donets and the Don, and the cities that were the keys to the defense of the oil fields and pipelines of the Caucasus.

One by one the Nazis began to achieve their objectives. By

July 8 they had swept to the Don and had established a front stretching along the river for nearly a hundred miles; by the end of the month they had again captured Rostov, had thrown bridgeheads across the Don, and had begun to pour troops across the river into the area to the southeast. The oil fields of Maikop and the Black Sea port of Novorossiisk fell to the Nazis after a month of fighting, and in addition a German column reached out to the edge of the Grozny oil fields, the richest oil source of the Caucasus.

By the end of August the stage had been set for the most dramatic and crucial struggle of all, the siege of Stalingrad. On August 22, the Germans crossed the Don at two points above and below the bend where it turns toward the Sea of Azov, and great forces were then massed at positions northwest and southwest of Stalingrad. From those directions the Germans struck across the level plains at the city again and again, using approximately a million men in their attacks. Hitler seemed oblivious to the decimation of his forces; regardless of the heavy losses, estimated at 2,000 men per day, he continued to pour in reinforcements and to order renewed advances. Nazi tanks gored gaping holes in the Russian defenses, but always the holes were closed as the Soviet reserves surged back.

The Russians knew that the loss of Stalingrad would mean the loss of the control of the lower Volga. With that key waterway and the industries of Stalingrad in Nazi hands, the Russian position in the south would be hopeless. Stalin, therefore, was as obdurate as Hitler; the city must be held. He too brought in fresh plane, tank, artillery, and infantry units. Women and children were evacuated, and workers left the factories to take positions in the front lines. Much of the machinery of the city's manufacturing plants was dismantled and transshipped across the Ural Mountains, there to be reassembled and again to be put into operation turning out war materials.

By the last of September it appeared that the German commander Von Bock would have his way. In spite of the heroic defense, a determined Nazi drive reached the Volga, at the city's eastern edge, and street fighting in the suburbs began on September 20. A force of 36,000 Germans battered its way into the city itself. But Marshal Timoshenko held on, and again reinforcements in great numbers arrived in time to push the invader back. Street fighting continued for two weeks, but the German thrust never reached the city's heart.

In the end it was the Russian success in learning to offset the enemy's superiority in tanks and planes that turned impending defeat into victory. As long as the fighting remained fluid, as it was in its opening stages, the Germans could use their tanks with telling effect. The Russian army newspaper, *Red Star*, at that point proclaimed it a battle of "continuous movement and maneuver on both sides," the very kind of battle that best suited the German weapons and strategy. In the confines of the city, however, it was a different story.

Edgar Snow in his *People On Our Side* tells of an interview with a Russian officer who revealed the tactics that were to ruin the Nazi hope of conquest. "This battle," he said, "showed that tanks forced to operate in narrow quarters are of limited value; they're just guns without mobility. In such conditions nothing can take the place of small groups of infantry, properly armed, and fighting with utmost determination. I don't mean barricade street fighting—there was little of that—but groups converting every building into a fortress and fighting for it floor by floor and even room by room. Such defenders cannot be driven out either by tanks or planes. The Germans dropped over a million bombs on us but they did not dislodge our infantry from its decisive positions." That type of defense kept Stalingrad in Russian hands.

Seven terrible weeks were spent by the Germans in a head-on effort to storm Stalingrad, but finally on October 8 the German radio announced that there would be a change. To avoid "unnecessary sacrifice," it was stated, the High Command henceforth would pursue a policy of artillery and air bombardment instead of direct frontal assault by tanks and infantry. It was another way of saying that while the siege of Stalingrad would go on, the Russians had forced a lull in the offensive. And a lull, with another winter closing in, spelled defeat.

While defeatism had not at that time taken hold in Germany, the Nazis began to use the Soviet bogey as a means of stirring their people to greater efforts. One Nazi newspaper that October warned: "Just because it is no longer possible to lose the war we are capable of picturing without trembling all the immense misery, humiliation, and destruction which would follow defeat. Every day we should think of this, and dedicate a few minutes to this picture of imagination in order to stir ourselves up and put an end to ridiculous grumbling and whining about trifles. Defeat means Asiatic vandalism in Europe. . . . Every day we must hammer into our minds the recollection of the horrible years after Versailles!"

On this new note of morale through realism, a substitution of fear for confidence, the German army prepared for its second Russian winter. The Berlin radio reported that the mid-November temperatures dropped to 29° below zero at Stalingrad. The great Nazi gamble at Stalingrad had lost, and now after three months of siege the city's defenders were ready to take the offensive.

The Red Army was ready for attack not only at Stalingrad but along the two thousand miles of front from Batum and Grozny in the Caucasus to Leningrad at the shores of the Baltic. Beginning on November 19, 1942, the Nazi *Wehrmacht* was to feel the weight of Russia's sledge-hammer blows at Smolensk, at Rzhev, at Rostov, at Stalingrad, along the Don, and in the Caucasus. The supervision of this whole counteroffensive was turned over to Stalin's chief military adviser, General Georgy Zhukov.

General Zhukov opened his offensive at Stalingrad and at a city six hundred miles to the north, Rzhev. At Rzhev Soviet engineers built a bridge in darkness just eighten inches below the itcy river's surface. This skilful action, completed almost under the guns of German sentries, enabled the Rusians to surge across the bridge and seize the initiative before the astounded Nazis realized what was hanpening. Simultaneously, Marshal Timoshenko unleashed his Stalingrad forces, and they not only broke through the besiegers' lines but in addition pushed the Nazis back across the Don river.

As time passed, the Soviet offensive mounted in intensity. The Red Army learned to cope with the Nazi "'hedgehog" defenses by reducing the concrete blocks and pillboxes with their artillery before sending forward their tanks and infantry. German lines of communication and supply were cut at several points, thereby causing a general withdrawal all along the front. On February 14 Rostov was given up by the Germans, and on February 16 Kharkov was abandoned. The only area left to the Nazis in the Caucasus was the Kerch Peninsula, and from there north to Orel they were forced back distances varying from fifty to three hundred miles. Even at Leningrad, where the German siege had been unrelieved since the early weeks of the invasion of Russia, the Nazis were compelled to withdraw a few miles.

At Stalingrad the Germans suffered their worst blow. There the famous German Sixth Army was encircled by the Russians. When the Nazi commander, General Friedrich von Paulus, ignored the Soviet surrender ultimatum, the Russians methodicaly set to work hacking the Germans to pieces. In twenty days, from January 2 to January 20, 1943, the Red Armies killed more than 100,000 men. By January 31, the day that General vou Paulus finally surrendered, only a handful of what had been an army of 330,000 men remained. The rest had been killed or had been captured in small groups.

Yet predictions that the Nazi eastern front was on the verge of collapse proved altogether premature. The winter campaign in Russia had cost Germany heavily in territory, in equipment, in manpower. The worst and most irretrievable loss was in time. Daily certainty grew that time was running out for the Nazis. Spring would see the Hitler legions advance again in Russia, but precious months had been lost forever. Those months Britain and the United States could use to produce and concentrate supplies—and in other ways.

One reason that the Red Army was successful in its winter offensive was the opening of a new front by American and British forces in Africa. Since this African venture drew no considerable numbers of men or amounts of equipment out of Russia, Soviet leaders scarcely deemed it an answer to their persistent demands for a "second front." Yet the move into Algeria and beyond proved so disastrous to the Nazi desert forces that the African front certainly served to limit Hitler's freedom of movement and lessened the chances of the Germans' receiving reinforcements to bolster their crumbling Russian front.

In the spring of 1942, Hitler had delivered fresh reserves to Rommel for his *Afrika Korps*, and in a drive that coincided with the Nazi surge into the Caucaus Rommel had swept out of Libya and on into Egypt. He had won a great prize on June 21 by trapping 30,000 British prisoners in Tobruk prior to capturing that fortress city. After an advance of over four hundred miles he had finally been halted by General Auchinleck's British Eighth Army at El Alamein, only seventy-five miles from Alexandria. For weeks thereafter both armies were at a standstill.

At that point, a change was made in British commanders. General Auchinleck was relieved and in his place General Harold R. L. G. Alexander became commander in chief of the British armies in the Middle East. General Bernard L. Montgomery at the same time was placed at the head of the Eighth Army. Soon after Montgomery took charge, reinforcements from England arrived, along with some new American-made Sherman tanks, and with these new men and weapons the British lashed back at Rommel.

Montgomery's Fifty-first Highlanders with bagpipes skirling opened the attack on the night of October 23, 1942. Progress was slow at first for sappers had to clear out mine fields before the tanks could get through. With the infantry leading the way past the mines and the barbed wire entanglements, Montgomery's tanks finally found an opening, outfought and outmaneuvered the enemy armor, and at last broke through Rommel's El Alamein line. In that first brilliant stroke the British rounded up two thousand Germans whom they had pinned against the sea and captured some thirty thousand Italians whom they had cornered in the Qatarra Depression.

After the initial breakthrough it was a rout. British and American airmen had complete air superiority, and they pounded Rommel's fleeing columns to pieces. The swooping planes scattered German tanks and trucks all over the desert, leaving to the

British armored troops an easy mopping-up operation. The headlong flight of the Nazis out of Egypt did not stop until they had reached El Agheila in Libya. In his 900-mile retreat Rommel yielded such strong points as Tobruk and Bengazi virtually without making an effort to defend them. Nazi prisoners were taken by the thousands, other thousands who escaped capture wandered aimlessly about the desert, and the German dead and wounded were left uncounted. Winston Churchill estimated that not less than 75,000 Axis troops had been put out of the fight. 59,000 prisoners, of whom 34,000 were Nazis, had been captured by November 15, 1942.

The real object of the chase was the wily Rommel himself. The British almost caught him south of Bengazi. There Montgomery sent a column swiftly to the south seeking to head off the German general's forces as they followed the coast line around the hump of Cyrenaica. The British were just too late, and Rommel slipped around to the comparative safety of El Agheila. Yet with only part of his army left, and with Montgomery advancing from the east and a second Allied force moving toward him from the west, Rommel's position was almost hopeless.

Consideration now must be given to that second Allied army that threatened Rommel's western flank. Rommel arrived with his battered column at El Agheila on November 22; two weeks before, this other Allied force had begun to make its presence felt in Africa. The place was the Mediterranean and Atlantic coast of French Morocco and Algeria. The date was November 8, 1942. The hour was midnight. The men were Americans under the command of a comparatively unknown Lieutenant General, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

This first use of American troops in the European-African theatre of operations had come about only after long months of careful preparation. Shortly after the landings in French Africa had taken place, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill made public the conferences and decisions and labors that had gone into the planning of the invasion. A start had ben made at the Christmas visit of Churchill to the United States after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and the project had occupied much of the time of the two leaders thereafter. According to Churchill: "The President of the United States is the author of this mighty underaking, and in all of it I have been his active and ardent lieutenant."

Agreement had been reached at that first December conference that Northwest Africa would be the point for the initial attack. Churchill had wanted an invasion of Western Europe "either alternately or simultaneously," but Roosevelt had held out for the Mediterranean front as more feasible in view of the problems involved. It was decided that an early operation, preferably one in 1942, was highly desirable; consequently all thought of a front on the English Channel was temporarily put aside. Nevertheless, a joint statement from Washington, London, and Moscow had been issued in June, 1942, declaring that "complete agreement has been reached on the urgent task of creating a second front in Europe in 1942." That declaration served the purpose of putting the Germans on their guard along the French coasts and caused them to maintain there thirty-three divisions and a third of their air strength, men and planes that otherwise might have ben used against the Russians. "I hold it perfectly justifiable," explained Churchill, "to deceive your enemy, even if at the same time your own people are deceived."

In August the British Prime Minister had made a trip to Moscow and at that time had revealed to Premier Stalin the full details of the Anglo-American strategy. That visit did much to prevent further misunderstanding with the Soviet Union over the issue of a second front. Africa was not France, but Stalin was willing to accept the decision of his allies. "We parted good friends," Churchill told later. "The Russians bore their disappointment like men. They faced the enemy . . . although we were unable to give them the help they so earnestly demanded." When the Allied offensive in Africa had begun, Stalin immediately gave expression to cordial sentiments that were indicative of a better understanding with the United States and Great Britain. He declared that it might be "confidently said that the effect will not be a small one and that a certain relief in pressure on the Soviet Union will result in the nearest future."

At the same time that tactics were being mapped in the Allied capitals, missions were secretly at work in the French colonies paving the way for the landings. Robert D. Murphy, formerly atached to the American embassy in Paris, kept a large group of American agents busy in Morocco and Algeria. They made friends for the Allied cause, spent money freely where it would do the most good, and obtained information that was to prove invaluable to the occupying troops.

Another party of Americans that paid an advance visit to French Africa was headed by Major-General Mark Wayne Clark. He and a small group of Army officers, dressed as civilians and therefore in danger of being shot as spies if events went against them, made their way ashore from a submarine three weeks before Novmber 8. Discussions with French officers, who had many reasons for desiring a German defeat, laid the groundwork for the invasion. On one occasion police interrupted a conference, and Clark and the other Americans had to hide in a wine cellar. They made good their escape, only to be nearly drowned when their rubber boat capsized; this mishap cost them $18,000 in gold which sank when the boat upset.

The loss of that much gold on the return trip leads one to wonder how much was taken ashore, how much was distributed, and for what purposes. Regardless of the amount it can be considered money well spent. The value of the intricate military and diplomatic undercover work of Robert Murphy and Mark Clark was to be proved when the landings began. As each hour passed after midnight of November 8, it became increasingly clear that many of the French were offering virtually no opposition to the Allies. At some points stiff resistance was encountered, but enough cooperation was obtained to guarantee success in the critical early hours of the undertaking.

On October 24, as General Montgomery made his opening maneuvers to break Rommel's line at El Alamein, a great American and British armada headed south from England. More than five hundred transports and cargo vessels were included, with a protecting force of 350 warships. Most of the troops crowded in the leading transports were Americans, for it was felt that the hostility between the British and French might undo the work of patching up relations with the French which had been performed by Murphy and Clark. After the first landings, however, British forces were used freely.

The first objectives of the invaders were the cities that held the keys to the control of French Morocco and Algeria, the port cities and naval stations, the railway and highway centers, the air bases, and the political capitals. That meant that the initial blows must be struck at the Mediterranean ports of Algiers and Oran and at the Atlantic cities of Casablanca and Rabat. In no instance did the landing barges go directly to the ports themselves; always, they would unload their troops on nearby beaches, leaving them to encircle the city. Ranger teams, especially trained to make deadly raids by stealthy tactics, usually went in first, followed by infantry, artillery, and tanks. The Rangers would hurry forward to seize control of vital points such as radio stations, docks, and public buildings, while the other units would methodically widen and secure the beachhead, fan out, and move forward toward the center of the city. Paratroopers were used in some areas to gain quick control of the airfields. Always air cover was provided by carrier planes and by bombers flown in from Gibraltar.

This American brand of *blitzkrieg* worked smoothly, and the subjugation of French Africa was hurried forward. The first American Rangers went ashore near Algiers at three o'clock in the morning of November 8. Two Ranger officers landed with the first assault troops fifteen miles west of the city; there they were met by a friendly French leader, and twenty minutes later they were shaking hands with the garrison commander. Within sixteen hours Vichy's military chief in North Africa, General Alfonse Pierre Juin, had surrendered and along with Admiral Jean Francois Darlan, next to Henry Petain and Pierre Laval the most important Frenchman in the Vichy regime. Admiral Darlan appears to have been on hand by accident since he had not been one of those involved in the secret conferences of October. He had come to Algiers a short while earlier from Vichy to visit his son who lay ill of infantile paralysis.

At Oran the French put up a more determined fight. The shore batteries around this harbor where the British had struck the French fleet in 1940 were manned in part by Germans, and they directed an effective fire at the Allied ships. The heavy slugging of General Lloyd R. Fredendall's ground troops together with the attacks of General James Doolittle's air force finally broke Oran's resistance on November 10.

The bitterest contest developed at Casablanca. This city of 250,000 was important as a port and a railhead and next to Dakar it was the finest prize in Vichy Africa. Two days before the American landings, De Gaullists had fought Germans in Casablanca, but the Vichy French there seemed to have been unswayed by the American undercover agents. A Vichy squadron of cruisers and destroyers opened fire on the Americans, but they were knocked out by Admiral Henry K. Hewitt's fleet. Navy bombers in this engagement left the uncompleted 35,000-ton battleship *Jean Bart* a mass of flames at its anchorage. Meanwhile the tank columns of General George S. Patton had driven into the city, and Casablanca was forced to yield.

Rabat fell without incident, and with all of their major cities gone the French of Morocco and Algeria gave up the struggle. On November 11, Admiral Darlan, having proclaimed himself the commander of all North Africa, issued the order for the French to cease firing. The Admiral and General Eisenhower signed a general armistice, and at that point the American leader announced that the fight of Morocco and Algeria was at an end. The campaign had lasted less than four days and had cost Americans only 860 killed and 1,050 wounded.

In concluding this first phase of the fight for North Africa, General Eisenhower made a bid for French support in the battles that lay ahead. "I do not regard this as any great victory," he said. "I regard these people as our friends. We had a mis understanding, but forunately it ended in our favor. The job now is to get this thing organized and go after the enemy."

That had been the keynote in all Allied overtures to the French both before the landings and after they had begun. President

Roosevelt broadcast in French by short-wave this message: "We come among you to repulse the cruel invaders . . . Have faith in our words . . . Help us where you are able. . . . *Vive La France Eternelle!*" Moreover, at Allied urging, leaders of all factions of Frenchmen broadcast exhortations to their followers to arise. General Henri Giraud, in North Africa, counselled collaboration with the Allies, pleading with Frenchmen to "save your bullets for the Boche." General De Gaulle broadcast from London: "Forward! The great moment has come. Help our Allies. Join them without reserve. Everywhere the enemy gasps and wavers." French troops did cooperate with the Allies thereafter by organizing a force that fought valiantly in Tunisia.

Now as success began to attend the cause of the United Nations, they found that they had bargained for too much collaboration. The three discordant elements within their French ally's ranks were constantly at cross-purposes, and no single policy would have satisfied all three leaders. Since the early negotiations in Africa, including Eisenhower's armistice agreement, had been made with Darlan, the De Gaullists felt that they had been betrayed. The fact was plain, they said, that the Allies were "treating on a basis of equality with the Number Two traitor of France." The fairness of the charge could not be denied, but as long as the influential Admiral performed useful services, such as his delivery of the great port of Dakar and the French fleet there to the Allies without a shot having to be fired, it was difficult to repudiate him.

On December 24, 1942, the dilemma was solved in part by the assassination of Darlan in Algiers. The political views of the young French assassin responsible for his death were variously interpreted to be pro-Vichy, pro-De Gaulle, and pro-Giraud. It is certain that his act was pro-American, for the death of Darlan made it unnecessary for the United States to have to cast him aside. Thereafter the way was clear for healing the temporary rupture with De Gaulle's Fighting French. No one mourned the passing of the renegade Darlan; a known opportunist and turncoat, he had made more enemies than most men accumulate in a much longer lifetime. It was unfortunate that the Allies found it necessary to deal with him, for next to Laval he was the most scorned of Frenchmen. By the time he was killed he had outlived his usefulness to the United Nations, and he was rapidly becoming a liability. Privately the Allied commanders probably rejoiced, along with loyal Frenchmen everywhere, at the news of his death.

The Nazis had not been idle while the struggle for Morocco and Algeria had been in progress. In retaliation the Germans made a number of rapid moves in an effort to counteract the Allied successes. Their first response was to concentrate a large submarine force in the western end of the Mediterranean with the purpose of wreaking havoc among the ships in the huge Anglo-American armada there. Sixteen vessels were torpedoed by the Germans, but the Allies took such a heavy toll of U-boats that the undersea raiders were wholly unsuccessful in slowing down the landings.

Next the Germans proceeded to occupy that portion of France where the Vichy government had maintained the fiction of self-rule. When the Americans first attacked in French Africa, Marshal Petain had given his orders: "France and her honor are at stake. We have been attacked. We will defend ourselves." Since the obedience of the Colonials to this command had too frequently taken the form of a token resistance to the Allies, the Germans moved to salvage what was left of Vichy France. As a step in their seizure of Southern France, the Nazis attempted to board the French ships in the Mediterranean port of Toulon. The prompt scuttling of most of these vessels by their French crews, however, prevented any considerable number falling into German hands. Among the ships sunk in this action was the battleship *Strasbourg* along with some sixty other men-of-war.

A more effective countermove of the Nazis was their reinforcement of Tunisia for a stand against the Allies. This French protectorate might have gone the way of Algeria and Morocco but for the quick action of the Germans. By rushing troops and light mechanized units by air from Sicily, they won by a close margin the race with the Allies for Bizerte and Tunis and forced thereby a longer and harder campaign for North Africa than the Allies had begun to hope would be necessary.

1. *Tobruk—Armored car manned with captured Italian gun.*
2. *Tobruk—Wrecked Italian and German planes litter the desert.*
3. *Tobruk—Gun pit in the desert.*
4. *The hull of the wrecked Italian cruiser, San Giorgio.*

The Allied plan of assault on Tunisia had called for the British First Army, under the command of General Kenneth A. N. Anderson, to land at Algiers and then to head for Tunisia without delay. Accordingly Anderson and his First Army had gone into Algiers on November 9; they had taken no part in the Algerian affair but instead had set forth on the road to Tunis. The First Army had neither the numbers nor the equipment for a protracted struggle, but a gamble was made with "a couple of brigades and a blade of armor." If all went well, they would sweep into Tunis and Bizerte and have those key cities in their grasp before the Axis was ready to defend them.

On November 10, however, the Germans began landing men in Africa by short haul from Sicily, at the rate of a thousand men a day, and by the time Anderson's forces had reached the Tunisian border the Germans and Italians had built up enough strength to thwart the plan of the Allies for a quick victory. Even so, before the end of November one of Anderson's columns took Mateur and another took Medjez-el-Bab while a combined British and American force occupied Tebourba. Mateur was only twenty miles from Bizerte and Tebourba only eighteen miles from Tunis.

By that time, however, the striking power of Anderson's army was gone. He was without supplies, he needed reserves in great number, and most of all he needed more air support. General Eisenhower hurried to the British commander all troops that could be spared from the operations farther west. The American general was later criticized for his sending small tactical units of the United States Army forward to join with Anderson who in turn placed them at any point they were needed in Tunisia. This policy meant that American troops instead of forming an army of their own were scattered amongst British forces. Another complaint was that these incomplete tactical units were frequently handicapped by being used for a type of duty entirely foreign to anything for which they had been trained.

Yet such criticisms fail to take into account the urgency of the situation confronting the Allied leaders; Eisenhower and Anderson did the best they could with what they had. They gambled in the hopes of winning Tunisia with a whirlwind thrust; they threw everything they dared into that gamble; their bet did not pay off. Still if the torrential rains had not turned the roads to mud, if there had been fewer Nazi *Stukas* screeching down on Allied troops and more American fighters in the air, several months of fighting might have been saved.

The Axis managed to bring this first Allied drive for Tunisia to a halt by December 6. Anderson's army was just fifteen miles short of its objective. The long supply line from Algiers had become over-extended, and only a fraction of the army's needs could be delivered. There was nothing to do but to fall back from Tebourba and to establish a line running north and south from Medjez-el-Bab to the sea. The Germans and Italians had been strong enough to stop Anderson, but they did not have the power to force him back farther than Medjez-el-Bab. There he waited until his turn came.

Thereafter the struggle for Tunisia slowed down into a bitterly contested slugging match. Most of December and January the Allies spent in trying to knock out by air raids the Axis ports of entry on the Mediterranean. Both Axis and Allied armies waited in the mud and rain while supplies and men were moved up to the front. Occasional feints were made at each other's lines, but the quagmires created by the prolonged rainy season prevented any considerable activity on the part of the rival ground forces.

Across Tunisia in the adjoining state of Tripolitania it was a different story. There at El Agheila Montgomery was ready to storm Rommel's fortifications by the middle of December. For his part, Rommel was in no wise prepared to make a stand; and on December 13 before the Eighth Army could strike, the "Desert Fox" slipped away toward Tripoli. He kept ahead of his pursuers in the ensuing chase by planting land mines like seed along the entire route, and the British anti-mine personnel had a busy time clearing the way for their comrades.

Try as he might, Montgomery could not bring Rommel to battle. At times the Nazi commander would call a halt in his retreat, but before the British could launch an attack the Germans would move on again. Now and then as the *Africa Korps* streamed along the coast road British warships would move in toward the shore to take up the fight and pump shells into the Nazi columns. All efforts to head Rommel off were futile, however, and he made good his escape to Tunisia, where he joined the Axis army already on hand there under the command of General Jurgen von Arnim.

Rommel's retreat from El Alamein in Egypt to Mareth in Tunisia had carried him 1,400 miles in fourteen weeks. Despite his losses he had kept his forces intact, and except for the first days following the El Alamein breakthrough his westward withdrawal had not been a rout. He had lost thousands of soldiers and he had abandoned tons of materials, but his army was still sizeable at the time of his junction with Von Arnim's force of some 130,000 men.

The achievement of Montgomery's Eighth Army in driving Rommel out of Egypt and on across Cyrenaica and Tripolitania must stand as one of the most notable accomplishments of the Second World War. In a sense the Eighth Army was an Allied Army, for much of its equipment was American and many of its men were from France and Poland and Greece and Czechoslovakia; but its brain and heart and sinew were British, and the English people justly take pride in its performance. Montgomery once told his men: "I doubt if our empire has ever possessed such a magnificent fighting machine as the Eighth Army; you made its name a household word all over the world."

Two weeks after Field Marshal Rommel took command of the Axis forces in Tunisia, he lashed out in an attack that caught the Allies in the west off guard. On February 14, 1943, he struck through the Faid Pass a few miles west of Sidi bou Zid and dealt crushing blows at the French and American troops who attempted

to hold the Pass. Once beyond Faid the German columns pushed on to Gafsa and Sbeitla and thence in a wide arc to Feriana and Kasserine. For a time it appeared that the Allies would be rolled out of Tunisia into Algeria.

In this first encounter of American forces with the Germans in World War II, the Americans came out second best. The unseasoned troops of the United States were not yet a match for the veterans of the *Africa Korps.* A sample of their greenness was their failure to cover their retreat with land mines, a trick Rommel had used to advantage in the desert. Losses for the Allies in this February battle were extensive, both in men and equipment. About half of the tank strength of the United States First Armored Division was gone, and other units that had sought to block the Nazi advance had been equally hard hit.

At Thala the Allies finally stopped the Germans. The United States Army's Ninth Division and Thirty-fourth Division had hurried there from Oran and were among the units contributing to the Allied victory. The artillery of the Ninth Division made a forced march of 770 miles in three days and arrived at Thala in time to turn back Rommel with an accurate and opportune barrage.

As suddenly as they had advanced now the Germans withdrew. Allied planes made this withdrawal as costly as possible, strafing and bombing everything in sight. Bombers hovered over Kasserine Pass and Faid Pass and poured down bombs on the files of men as they squeezed through the narrow passageways. Rommel pulled back the full thirty miles of his advance, but he could still point to the damaged Allied war materials and claim the victory.

Thereafter the initiative in the Tunisian campaign was held by the Allies; only on one or two occasions after their February success did the Germans try an offensive even of a limited size. Von Arnim in the north and Rommel in the south could only watch and wait as the British and Americans closed in upon them. They still fought with skill, but none of their sudden spurts could disguise the fact that the cause for which they fought was lost. They could only delay the ineviable.

After their February setback the Allies effected some changes in command and a general reorganization in arms. Under General Eisenhower as commander-in-chief, General Sir Harold Alexander was named the active field commander of all ground forces of the Allies in Tunisia. General Lloyd F. Fredendall was removed as commander of the American Second Army Corps, and he was replaced by General George S. Patton. The Second Corps was expanded to include three infantry and one tank division. and by that act most of the American troops were pulled out of British units and joined together in their own separate organization. The air forces in Tunisia also were revitalized, and General Carl Spaatz was put in direct charge of air operations.

At last the Allies were ready. Their air arm, by this time in control of the skies over Tunisia, opened the assault with a blazing attack on Nazi positions. Bombers blasted at the enemy's supply lines and rear bases, and fighters coordinated their strikes at Rommel's and Von Arnim's columns with the advances of Allied infantrymen harassed by the *Stukas;* instead it was the Germans that suffered the strafing.

Then in the center of the line Patton's Second Corps began pounding toward Gafsa. His divisions overran Feriana and Sbeitla and Sidi bou Zid, and at last, in mid-March, they rolled into Gafsa. From there they made a two-pronged drive through El Guettar and Sened, and for a while it appeared that the Americans would be able to strike through to the sea. Had all American units matched the brilliant performance of the First Division in this action, not even the difficult terrain could have long slowed their advance; but the other infantry divisions had not yet found themselves, and their failures caused all hope of a quick thrust's trapping Rommel to be temporarily abandoned.

With the Americans pressing the Germans hard in the central sector, the British began an attack in the south. There Rommel had established a strong front stretching inland from the town of Mareth, and against this Mareth Line Montgomery now hurled one wing of his Eighth Army. Another wing he sent on a wide sweep to the south, with the purpose of turning Rommel's flank. Fierce fighting marked the progress of the British, but in spite of heavy losses at Wadi Zigzau and at El Hamma, Montgomery's tactics were successful and the British steadily pushed the Germans back. On March 27, Rommel's Mareth Line at last collapsed, and the Germans had to streak north before Patton could cover the remaining twenty-nine miles from Maknassy with the tanks of the First Armored Division and thus block the Nazi retreat.

Once more the "Desert Fox" was the object of a chase. and he proved as elusive as ever. He outran the American Thirty-fourth Division and British Ninth Corps units near Fondouk just before the Allies succeeded in forcing their way past the hills and minefields that lay between them and their quarry. The Germans withdrew to the north where Von Arnim was standing off General Anderson and the British First Army. The two Nazi armies now prepared to make their final stand behind the jagged hills that formed a wide arc in front of the plains before Tunis and Bizerte.

Against this strong position the American Second Corps, the Fighting French Nineteenth Corps, and the British First and Eighth Armies pressed forward to drive the Germans into the the sea. To make sure that there would be no Axis duplication of Dunkirk, Allied bombers pounded at enemy shipping, and Allied naval units patrolled the Mediterranean waters around possible ports of exit. Without prospect of outside aid, the Germans and Italians could only await the inevitable closing of the jaws of the United Nations trap.

In this final phase of the fighting, the American Second Corps showed to particular advantage. The Second Corps had moved north from the El Guettar sector in a swift march of two hundred miles and en route had acquired a new commanding officer, General Omar N. Bradley. Eisenhower reasoned that the remainder of the North African struggle would be an infantry show; hence he replaced his master of tanks, Patton, with an infantry leader. Bradley proved to be a sound choice.

The battles of the Northern Tunisian hills were short, bloody, and decisive. The numbered hills gave their undramatic names to those battles, as severe tests for American skill and courage as any in the history of the nation's armed forces. Hill 532 cost almost an entire battalion; mines, booby traps, and the fire from mortars and machine guns drove this battalion back three times before its fourth charge forced the enemy to retreat.

More important was the caputre on May 1 of Hill 609, the key to the city of Mateur, which protected Bizerte and served as the bulwark of the Axis northern flank. Hill 609 rises like a fortress out of the surrounding lesser hills, and its defenders made full use of its natural impregnability. The untried Thirty-fourth Division worked like a veteran outfit of a score of campaigns in cracking the hill's defenses and in holding it against savage German counterattacks. Then when Green Hill and Bald Hill were stormed by the Ninth Division, Mateur lay open to capture.

Within a week of the fall of Mateur, Bizerte and Tunis were in Allied hands. The Americans pushed on past Mateur to Bizerte and took the port city without difficulty. At the same time the British smashed through the Medjerda Valley and moved into Tunis. From Tunis the British drove into the Cap Bon Peninsula and boxed in the final group of Axis troops. Somewhat surprisingly the final collapse of the Axis came suddenly; there were no last minute heroics, no last ditch stand, no escape by sea. On May 10, 1943, all Axis resistance in North Africa came to an end. At some unannounced date, Rommel had been flown to Germany, leaving to Von Arnim and lesser leaders the indignity of surrender.

Between the two Allied armies at Bizerte and Tunis, the considerable Nazi force under Von Arnim's command was trapped and thus helped to swell the cost of the campaign to the Axis. Among the Axis casualties in Tunisia alone were 30,000 killed, 27,000 wounded, and 266,000 captured. The total of Allied casualties numbered less than 70,000. During the three years of their African campaign, the British suffered 200,000 casualties, while the Axis lost 600,000. Of the Axis total, however, only 250,000 were Germans. From the time that United States troops first landed in North Africa to the close of the campaign, American losses were 2,184 killed, 9,437 wounded, and 6,937 missing and taken prisoner.

Although beaten the Germans had not suffered disaster in their African venture. Rommel's brilliant feat of keeping large Allied armies occupied for a period of two years in running to earth his relatively small *Africa Korps* of four Nazi divisions ranks with the great achievements of the war. "With the Italians," an appraisal in *Time* for May 24, 1943, reads, "he all but closed the Mediterranean to Allied shipping, forced the costly extension of Allied supply lines, for two critical years pinned down a large proportion of Britain's effective military strength, to that extent delayed any possible invasion of the continent when Russia was in its direst straits."

In turn, the Allies by their victory in North Africa had benefitted greatly from their campaign. Much of military value was learned by American leaders about weaknesses in their army, including the mistakes made in training, the inadequacy of certain officers high and low in rank, and the faults inherent in a scattered command. The multiplicity of leadership promted someone to remark that "never in the history of human conflict have so few been commanded by so many." The capable handling of all these diverse elements by General Eisenhower, remarkable under the circumstances, marked him as almost the inevitable choice as commander-in-chief in case of a northern invasion of the continent of Europe.

In addition to the new knowledge the Allies had gleaned about themselves, they had profited from their African campaign at the expense of their enemies. They had shattered for all time Mussolini's dreams of empire. They had dimmed Axis prestige, and they had given new courage to resistance groups in countries overrun by Hitler. They had made the campaign costly in a material sense, for they had destroyed and captured immense stores of Axis supplies. In the Tunis-Bizerte area alone, the Allies took possession of 330 tanks, 500 guns, and 4,000 trucks.

Strategic advantage, however, had been the principal Allied gain from their North African campaign. The entire African coast of the Mediterranean had been cleared of the enemy, and the

Axis had been restricted to the continent of Europe. The Mediterranean Sea had been reopened, and thereby twelve thousand miles had been cut from the distance to the Middle East and the Far East. Bases had been won from which all Southern Europe could be easily bombed. An iron ring had been drawn around the whole of Hitler's "Fortress Europe," and now he would have to thin out his forces to make them spread enough to cover ten thousand miles of front. Most important of all, new springboards for an invasion of Europe had been acquired.

At Stalingrad and Tunisia, the United Nations moved beyond the end of the beginning. Their combined efforts were already marking out the course the war would follow. By the first of May, 1943, the German and Italian members of the Axis were beginning to experience defeat. The Allies were mounting their offensive. The end was still far off, but the way was growing clear.

CHAPTER X

The Not So Soft Underbelly

In reviewing for Parliament the Allied reasons for striking at Algeria and Morocco in November, 1942, Winston Churchill stated: "At the same time we make this wide and encircling move in the Mediterranean, having for its primary object the recovery of the command of that vital sea, but also having for its object the exposure of the underbelly of the Axis, especially Italy, to heavy attacks." Immediately after the clean-up in Tunisia, the attack on that exposed underbelly began.

Allied airmen led the way. Flights of Wellingtons, Marauders, Liberators, Fortresses, and Mitchells ranged out over the Mediterranean and rocked the Italian islands of Pantelleria, Lampedusa, Sicily, and Sardinia with a steady rain of bombs. Airfields, port facilities, railway yards, and gun emplacements were the special targets. German and Italian airmen tried hard to stop the onslaught, but the Allies brushed them aside; 305 Axis planes were knocked out of the air during the early days of June while the Allies lost less than fifty. Under the Allied aerial umbrella, fleet units maneuvered close to Pantelleria and Sicily and used their heavy guns with effect on shore defenses.

For twenty days the tiny island fortress of Pantelleria was made to suffer a shattering precision bombing that blasted it from one end to the other. Seven million pounds of explosives were dropped in that period, and the garrison on the island was pulverized. On June 11, 1943, the defenders surrendered. It was the first time in history that an island fortification had been bombed into submission and had yielded to an air force.

Promptly two other small islands, Lampedusa and Limosa, which like Pantelleria lay between Tunis and Sicily, yielded to the Allied bombers. Disappointed at being left out of these aerial conquests, Britain's Commando leader, Lord Louis Mountbatten, ruefully requested the air forces in the future "please to stop two days earlier and give us a chance."

The island of Sicily was next. For four weeks more the bombers continued to blast at Sicily and Italy, leaving in their wake charred rubble where once had been hangars, landing docks, factories, and supply depots. It was clear that all of this was simply to soften Sicily for invasion. The Allied intention was understood full well by the Axis nations, but they lacked the power to offer effective resistance.

The long-expected invasion of Sicily began about 10 p. m. on the night of July 9, 1943. British and United States parachute troops and air-borne infantry went in first. As the leading American plane neared the target, the officer in charge spoke these simple words: "Well, boys, we are truly the first men of America tonight. We will be the first to land in Axis Europe. For hours and hours we will be alone. There will be enemies all around us and over our heads. We must do our best." Their best was good enough to seize airfields and to knock out utilities and communications and thus to have much of the initial work necessary to the success of an amphibious operation already accomplished before the main landing force struck the Sicilian coast the next morning. Even so, faulty air navigation caused the American units of the Eighty-second Airborne Division to be landed at points too far distant from their planned objectives, and the power of their diversionary attacks in the enemy's rear was considerably diminished.

Throughout the night of July 9 and the early morning of July 10 the great invasion force streamed across from Africa. Four times the number of ships used in the Algerian and Moroccan landings were employed in the Sicilian operation; 3,266 transports, landing craft, and fighting escorts carried the invading armies to the appointed beaches. Air superiority gave the United Nations complete freedom from bomber and fighter reprisal action, and their assault troops moved forward under a friendly air cover at all times. Included in the Allied force were 160,000 men, 1,008 heavy guns, and 600 tanks.

The southeast corner of the island was the scene of the landings. The Americans went ashore near Licata, Gela, and Scogliti, while the British seized the eastern shore from Cape Passero to Syracuse. Although the Axis had correctly read the signs and knew that an attack was imminent, the Allies gained the initial advantage of surprise by striking at a point and at a time that were unexpected. The Axis never recovered completely from those first blows.

The command structure for the operation was much the same as it had been during the Tunisian campaign. The strategic command was in the hands of General Eisenhower, and again his chief in the field was General Alexander. The Eighth Army, still led by General Montgomery, represented the British half of General Alexander's group, while a newly-formed American Seventh Army was on hand with General George Patton at its head and with General Omar Bradley as one of his assistants. The Seventh Army was composed of the First, the Third, the Ninth, and the Forty-fifth Infantry Divisions, the Eighty-second Airborne Division, and the Second Armored Division.

As the men of the Seventh Army prepared to leave their transports, an "Order of the Day" from General Patton was read: "When we land we will meet German and Italian soldiers whom it is our honor and privilege to attack and destroy. Many of you have in your veins German and Italian blood, but remember that these ancestors of yours so loved freedom that they gave up home and country to cross the ocean in search of liberty. . . . Remember that we as attackers have the initiative. We must retain this tremendous advantage by always attacking rapidly, ruthlessly, viciously, without rest. However tired and hungry you may be, the enemy will be more tired, more hungry. Keep punching. God is with us. We shall win." Few of the men who heard those words were inspired, however, for they were a very seasick group. They looked like anything but conquerors that morning.

Once on land and in the words of their song. "with the dirt behind their ears," the infantry needed no special words of encouragement. General Terry Allen and the First Division got to the shore first, and with the aid of a Ranger battalion they took the original objective, the city of Gela. That action seemed to make the beachhead secure, but on the following day, July 11, a bitter Axis counterattack nearly swept the Americans back into the sea. The enemy assault was made with the support of nearly a hundred tanks, and it came at a time when the Americans had landed only three tanks and not many more anti-tank guns. The battle-hardened First Division was doubtless one of the few units in the United States Army that could have at that stage of the war held its ground against the withering attack that followed. The defense of Hill 41 by the 16th Regiment's 2nd Battalion was so heroic and bloody that it became a legend; men later quite erroneously convinced themselves that holding this pinpoint of the battlefield saved the Sicilian campaign and in turn won the war.

At the day's end, the American defenders of Gela were exhausted, their ammunition was spent, and the enemy still pressed hard upon them. General Allen chose that moment to give the order: "We attack tonight!" Somehow the men moved forward and ammunition and tanks were moved in from the beaches. By the next morning, the enemy had been compelled to fall back, and Gela and the beachhead were saved.

While the First Division was battling desperately for its foothold at Gela, the British were clearing the Cape Passero and Syracuse areas. General Montgomery sent his men against the Sicilian shore with the message: "The Italian overseas empire has been exterminated. We will now deal with the home country." The British at once shattered the Italian 206th Coastal Division and even captured its commanding general. From Syracuse one column of Britons struck inland towards the Americans in the west. and another started up the coast in the direction of the ultimate goal, the city of Messina.

Throughout the Sicilian campaign, and especially in the critical first days, Allied sea power played an important role in the Allied victory. British and American fleet units delivered the invading troops to the beaches without molestation from the Axis and then roamed the coasts to offer support to all Allied forces. The heavy guns of the warships bombarded port cities. They blasted shore defenses, railroads, and airfields. They forced two towns, Pozzalo and Augusta, to surrender, each giving up to an Allied destroyer. They gave the hard-pressed Seventh Army at Gela timely aid by knocking out German tanks as they came charging to points only a thousand feet from the shore.

Quickly the Gela beachhead was widened by the Americans. On the First Division's left flank, the Third Division took the city of Licata and drove rapidly westward to Agrigento and Cani-

catti. To the right of the First Division, the Forty-fifth Division overran Vittorio and established contact with the Canadians of the Eighth Army. All of those positions were expanded by tank and infantry advances that gathered momentum by the hour. On July 21 American and Canadian troops seized Enna, an important communications center and road junction in central Sicily, and two days later American armored units raced across to the northwestern coast to take Palermo. Thereafter resistance in western Sicily disintegrated, some eighty thousand Italians surrendering within the following week.

By August 1, General Patton's Seventh Army was ready to turn eastward and join with General Montgomery's British Eighth Army for the final phase of the battle. On Sicily's northeast corner, fifty thousand Germans and fory-five thousand Italians held a line that extended from Catania on the east coast past volcanic Mt. Etna to San Stefano on the north shore. Among the German troops defending this rugged mountainous region was the famous Hermann Goering Armored Division which had for weeks more than held its own in clashes with the British around Catania. The Nazis fought for the time they needed to prepare a withdrawal across the Straits of Messina, and they fought well; Northeastern Sicily proved as bloody and costly as Western Sicily had proved easy.

The struggle for the rocky hilltop of Troina was the bitterest battle for American troops in the whole campaign. Again it was the First Division that drew the assignment of reducing a firmly entrenched enemy, and again the "Fighting First" was equal to the occasion. For five consecutive nights the Americans stormed the slopes and advanced, only to be thrown back by the German counterattack of the succeeding day. At last on August 8, just as the word began to go around that "everyone's getting battle-wacky," the Nazis were beaten off and Troina was in American hands. The fall of Troina, and the subsequent capture of Randazzo by the Ninth Division, broke the Axis "Etna Line" and left Messina open to the Allies. The seizure of Messina on August 17 brought the Sicilian campaign to a close.

The steady rearguard fight put up by the Axis forces, however, had achieved the end they had sought; the main body of the enemy, including the Hermann Goering Division, made good its escape to Italy. There was no hopeless surrender of Nazi and Fascist troops as had been the case in Tunisia, and as a result nearly ninety thousand men were salvaged. The Allies tried everything in an effort to stop the little barges in which the fleeing Germans and Italians crossed the narrow Straits of Messino between Sicily and the toe of the Italian boot; Allied amphibious landings behind Axis lines failed to outflank them before the barges could be loaded, and superior air and sea power likewise proved unavailing. The Germans by massing hundreds of anti-aircraft guns at Messina succeeded in neutralizing in part the Allied command of the air, and no amoutn of naval gunfire could upset all the small barges.

Axis losses were heavy in the evacuation, but in the eyes of Allied leaders not heavy enough. Still the Allies could count the Battle of Sicily an unqualified success. In thirty-eight days, they had overrun an island which the Germans had called "one huge impregnable fortress"; they had captured 100,000 prisoners and had killed and wounded 100,000. Allied casualties were placed at 25.000 men. Of these Allies casualties 7,400 were Americans.

The success of the United Nations in Sicily produced immediate repercussions on the Italian mainland and in the city of Rome. As the campaign progressed it became increasingly obvious that Germany had no intention of making any supreme effort to hold the island, and the realization of that fact stirred resentment among the Italian people. This anti-Nazi sentiment, inflamed by the discouragements experienced in the disastrous African campaigns, created disinterest and caused the Italians to lose the will to fight. Thousands of their troops in Sicily did quit fighting long before surrender was necessary.

Into that rift in German-Italian relations, Allied spokesmen drove the point of a propaganda wedge. They called on the Italians to overthrow Mussolini and Fascism, described as mere tools in the hands of the Nazis. President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill joined their voices in an appeal to the people of Italy at the outset of the invasion: "We take no satisfaction in invading Italian soil. . . . But we are determined to destroy the false leaders and their doctrines, which have brought Italy to her present position. . . . The time has now come for you, the Italian people, to consult your own self-respect and your own interest and your own desire for a restoration of national dignity, security and peace. The time has come for you to decide whether Italians shall die for Mussolini and Hitler—or live for Italy and for civilization."

Another effective message was despatched by President Roosevelt to the Pope in which it was stated that the Allies had come "to rid Italy of Fascism and all its unhappy symbols, and to drive out the Nazi oppressors who are infesting her soil." The President pledged that the neutrality of the Vatican would be respected and promised that churches would be spared as much of the devastation of war as was possible.

The Allied air force backed up this verbal bombardment by smashing at targets in all sections of Italy. The climax to these aerial attacks was the bombing of Rome on July 18. For three years Allied airmen had held back from striking at the Eternal City out of respect for the religious and cultural monuments there; but now as it was apparent that its railways were being used to transport troops to the south, Rome was subjected to the same treatment as any other military objective. Extreme care was taken to avoid hitting any of the esthetic shrines and historic remains of ancient civilization, for the Allies had no wish to be charged with barbarities by Axis propagandists. Nevertheless the Basilica of San Lorenzo was hit, and a storm of protest arose from the Catholic world that was only partially stilled by a calm statement on the matter from the Pope.

The bombing of Rome brought the disastrous course of the war home to the Italian people; the defeats in Africa and Sicily now seemed about to be duplicated on the mainland. Mussolini was the one man held responsible by the Italians, and riots broke out against him. Il Duce held a last desperate conference with Hitler in the north and received from his ally the disappointing information that large-scale aid from Germany was out of the question. Hitler instead proposed that the Italians withdraw from Southern Italy and establish a line north of the Po River, and that recommendation Mussolini in turn presented to the king and the army leaders. When they spurned the proposal, Mussolini was compelled to give up his position as premier.

He was ordered by the king to place himself at the disposal of military authorities, but he stormed out of the room shouting words of bluster and defiance. As he tried to leave, however, he was dragged out "by brute force," strapped to a stretcher, and carried away in an ambulance to an unnamed place of safekeeping. Il Duce's two decades of tyrannical rule came to its ignominious end on July 25, 1943.

As successor to Mussolini, King Victor Emmanuel named Marshal Pietro Badoglio. Democratic peoples could rejoice in the deposition of Il Duce inasmuch as his overthrow presaged the collapse of Italy; but they had no reason to celebrate the advent of Badoglio, a man in high standing in the Fascist Party, the strategist for Italian troops in Spain, and the commanding general in the war on Ethiopia. Badoglio's first proclamation seemed to indicate that he would stage a fight to the finish against the Allies: "I take over the military government of the country with full powers. The war goes on. . . . Let us close our ranks around the King Emperor, the living soul of the fatherland. . . . Long live Italy! Long live the King." Yet if the regime showed anti-Allied tendencies, signs also pointed to an anti-Nazi policy; no sooner had Badoglio taken charge than the Rome radio announced that its daily lesson in German would be stopped.

Thus it was Badoglio, not Il Duce, who witnessed the final Allied mopping up on Sicily and then watched and waited while the final preparations were made for the short jump over to the mainland. His was a singularly difficult position; he dared not fight the Allies because of Italy's weakness, yet he dared not sue for peace for fear of German retaliation. While he hesitated the Italian people made it plain that they wanted no more war, and no amount of repression could quiet their clamor for peace. "We want peace and liberty! And both are indivisible," cried one Roman paper.

Allied airmen kept on rubbing salt into Italy's wounds. Heavy bombers from England came down to cross the Alps and smash at cities in the north, while other planes from Mediterranean bases struck at targets in the south. For a second time Rome was hit, and along with the bombs the Allies dropped leaflets which reminded the people: "The Mussolini Government is gone, but the Nazi war continues." Each type of bombardment produced results. Badoglio promised to demilitarize Rome and asked that it be respected as an "open city." This action in turn prompted peace rioters in Milan to shout: "Rome does not want any more raids! Neither do we!"

The demands of the people for peace were not without influence on Badoglio. Before he had been in control a week, he made his first overture to the United Nations through envoys he sent to Portugal to meet with Allied representatives. The Italians were informed that unconditional surrender would be the only condition on which an armistice would be granted. On August 19, a second conference was held in Lisbon to discuss the possibility of cooperation between the Allies and Italy in case of prolonged German resistance to Allied occupation of the peninsula. As evidenec of good faith, Badoglio released a captured British officer, General Adrian de Wiart, and permitted him to accompany the Italian envoy to a third Lisbon meeting.

Final arrangements for the capitulation of Italy were made in Sicily. At General Eisenhower's headquarters in Syracuse, the Allied staff and two military aides to General Badoglio held a series of conversations. On September 3, 1943, the terms of the surrender were agreed upon, and an armistice was signed. The sweeping terms demonstrated how unconditionally Italy yielded: all hostilities would cease; all Italian territory would be turned over to the Allies for military purposes; the Italian fleet would be given to the Allies; all manner of aid to the Germans would be denied them in the future.

All negotiations leading to Italy's withdrawal from the Axis had been conducted in greatest secrecy lest Germany seize con-

trol of the nation before Allied troops could land. No announcement was made of the surrender, therefore, until September 8, the day that Allied troops began the invasion of the mainland. The Nazis, however, were not caught unawares, for they had correctly sensed the trend of Badoglio's policy and had for weeks poured troops into Italy to reinforce their considerable number of men already there. Consequently the fall of Italy disappointingly proved to be of little military value to the Allies since the Germans continued the war on Italian soil. Badoglio's month of temporizing was thus productive of harm both to his own land and to the Allies; an earlier surrender would have saved Italy from the ravages of the struggle that followed and would have saved the Allies thousands of casualties.

The Badoglio government the Germans steadfastly refused to recognize. Upon the announcement of the Italian surrender, German planes and parachute troops made their way to Mussolini's place of imprisonment some seventy miles north of Rome and rescued the former Duce. Thereafter Mussolini posed as the true leader of the Italian people, but he was a leader *in absentia*. His lack of influence was demonstrated at the outset when Italian forces in Sardinia turned upon the Germans and drove them off the island. Thereafter when the Italians had aid to give, they gave it to the Allies. Few of the Italian people missed Mussolini or longed for his return, and his only value to Germany was to cloak with an air of legality some of the Nazi acts that followed.

Since the *Wehrmacht* had long been fighting the battles of Italy in the Balkans, in Africa, and in Sicily, the loss of Fascist support was of small consequence to Germany. Some Italian security troops had to be replaced in the Balkans, but otherwise the situation was not materially altered. Adolf Hitler pointed out that fact in a statement to his people: "The withdrawal of Italy means little in a military sense because the struggle in that country has for months been sustained and carried on mainly by German forces. We will continue the struggle free of all burdensome encumbrances." The Fuehrer, however, made no mention of the significance of the transfer to the Allies of the Italian fleet, a move that Churchill said "decisively altered the naval balances of the world." While the Italians had kept their warships safely under cover after the Matapan engagement of March, 1941, the fleet constituted a menace as long as there was danger of its being used in the Nazi interest. The Allies correctly counted the Italian navy as a valuable prize.

Once the fall of Italy had been proclaimed, the Italian warships, flying black pennants of surrender, left their bases and headed for Allied ports. Off the coast of Corsica, one squadron was attacked by German planes, and the sleek new 35,000-ton battleship *Roma* was sunk. Nevertheless, the main body of the fleet made it to Malta where Britain's Admiral Cunningham and America's General Eisenhower were waiting to bid it welcome. Five battleships, including the 35,000-ton dreadnaughts *Vittorio Veneto* and *Italia*, cruisers, destroyers, and submarines were in this squadron. Other warships and hundreds of merchantmen turned up at Gibraltar and at Black Sea ports. Mussolini's *Mare Nostrum* had become an Allied sea.

The transfer of Italian allegiance was a severe shock to the German people, and no amount of soothing propaganda from the Berlin radio could disguise the ominous portent of that event. When at last Hitler spoke, overtones of worry concerning his own position could be detected in his speech. "Hope of finding traitors here," he declared, "rests on complete ignorance of the character of the National Socialist State; a belief that they can bring about a July 25 in Germany rests on a fundamental illusion as to my personal position as well as about the attitude of my political collaborators and my field marshals, admirals and generals. More than ever before, the German leadership opposes these intentions as a fanatical unit. Any emergency will only fortify us in our determination." It clearly was not the old self-confident Fuehrer who spoke.

Hitler had reason to be subdued. Not only had Mussolini fallen and Italy surrendered, but now came news that the walls of his European Fortress had been breached. The actual invasion of the continent of Europe began on September 3, 1943, when General Montgomery led a British force across the Straits of Messina to Calabria at Italy's southern tip. The redoubtable Eighth Army, which thus had the honor of being the first Allied troops to invade the mainland, had little opposition, for no Germans were on hand and the Italians were eager to yield.

Sixty days later, in the early morning of September 9, a combined British and American army forced its way ashore at Salerno, some thirty-five miles from the city of Naples. Salerno was chosen because the sandy beaches of its gulf offered the only place where a large army could be landed that would still be within the range of the fighter planes based on air fields to the south. The Allied strategy was to drive across the peninsula from Salerno and thereby to cut off the avenue of escape for the Germans as they retreated before Montgomery and the Eighth Army as they pushed up from Calabria.

This plan failed because the Germans had studied the map and had figured out that Salerno would be the place where the Allies would strike. They had prepared their defenses carefully; they even went to the trouble to remove trees and brush along the beach so that no obstacle would obstruct the view of their gunners. Mortars and machine guns were placed almost at the water's edge. Barbed wire barriers were erected, row on row of them. Thus when the Allied landing craft scraped their bottoms on Italian soil, the Germans were waiting and ready; and as the Americans and British tried to rush up the saucer-shaped shore, they were cut down by the hundreds.

General Mark Clark, at the head of the Fifth Army at Salerno, later was to say that the situation there was never desperate, but the men of his command who made the initial landings had an entirely different impression during the first days of the invasion. Veterans of the Forty-fifth Division who led the way up the beach subsequently reported that they were anything but sanguine about the outcome, and the men of the Thirty-sixth Division and of the British units that followed were of the same opinion. The fact is that the Germans nearly turned Salerno into an Allied defeat. In the first week the battle cost the United States 3,497 killed, wounded, or missing, and the British lost an equal number. The expedition succeeded only because the Fifth Army troops possessed the courage to hold on in the face of a withering fire that blasted their ranks to bits.

The ground troops again received sterling support from the Allied naval and air forces; without their aid the men who fought on the sands of Salerno could not have survived. Allied airmen flew two thousand sorties over the beachhead in one day, and when the Nazi counterattack of September 14 was at its height almost a ton of bombs was dropped on German positions every minute. The guns of the five hundred ships that formed the convoy were equally effective in hurling back the Nazis. Two British battleships, the *Warspite* and the *Valiant*, and three American cruisers, the *Philadelphia*, the *Savannah*, and the *Boise*, won particular acclaim; the *Philadelphia* alone fired over four thousand rounds while the struggle lasted. All arms of the service could take pride in their achievements at Salerno.

While the American and British units of the Fifth Army were clinging to their narrow strip of land around Salerno, the British Eighth Army was surging up from the south. On September 17 the Eighth and the Fifth Armies joined, forming by that act a front that stretched 225 miles along the western Italian coast; and thereafter the fortunes of he Allies began to improve. The Germans began to back up toward the north on the following day, and the Allies were able to extend their front across the peninsula from Salerno to Bari. On September 27 the giant airdromes of Foggia were taken. Then on October 1, Naples, the first important objective of the campaign, fell to the Allies.

Naples, with its population of 839,000 and its fine harbor, was one of the chief prizes sought by the United Nations. The Germans before their departure, however, had spared nothing in an effort to make the city valueless. Not only were factories burned and the harbor left cluttered with sunken ships, but in addition public buildings were destroyed, utilities wrecked, and art treasures sacked. The Nazis apparently had embarked upon a scorched earth policy as much for reasons of vengeance as for reasons of military necessity.

The next Allied objective was Rome. "All roads lead to Rome," General Alexander said a month later. "I won't argue that. But unfortunately all the roads are mined." He might have added that they were also deep in mud. Yet slowly, mile after mile of those roads was traversed: across the heights of the Apennines, across the rivers, the Volturno, the Sangro, the Moro. Herbert L. Matthew, in the *New York Times* of December 26, 1943, painted the unforgettable picture of the soldier who trudged and fought the long way to Rome: "The picture you want to get into the mind is that of a plugging, filthy, hungry, utterly weary young man straggling half dazed and punch drunk, and still somehow getting up and over and beating the Germans, and hanging on against the enemy counter-attacks."

Yet in spite of the fatigue and the cold, the Allies in Italy were compelled to keep the men at the front far longer than was desirable. Where three days of frontline action ordinarily were deemed sufficient, the Forty-fifth Division fought forty consecutive days without relief and the Third Division fifty-seven days. Those men and the others somehow endured, and pressed forward.

As 1944 opened, the Allied armies were still south of Rome, held back from that city by the German defense system known as the "Gustav Line." In Washington, a staff officer, General Joseph T. McNarney, moreover, made it plain that pushing past Rome and on into the north of Italy would be no easy task: "In Sicily the Germans had three and one-half divisions. . . . It took the two best Armies of the United States and Great Britain, containing a total of 13 divisions, five weeks to overcome the bitter defense of an enemy whose air cover had been removed and whose supply lines were paralyzed. . . . Today in Italy we are faced with nearly 20 German divisions; beyond Italy are the Alps, a formidable natural defense line, and many more German divisions."

Slowed by a stubborn opponent and a more unyielding terrain, the Allies were disappointed in not closing out the Italian campaign at an earlier date. Yet the first stab at the "underbelly" of the Axis had produced important results. Sicily and a third of the Italian mainland were in Allied hands. Italy's navy was

ready to serve any purpose the United Nations desired. The Mediterranean had become an Allied sea. Mussolini had been overthrown, and Italy had capitulated. The score between the Allies and the Axis now stood at one down and two to go.

CHAPTER XI

The Secondary Front

The year 1943 had witnessed important Allied victories in the European-African theatre of operations. Air raids of tremendous proportions had brought the war into the German homeland. The Red Army and the Russian winter had combined to force the Nazi invaders of the Soviet Union to fall back in retreat. Italian and German troops had been sent fleeing across Libya in temporary disorder, American and British armies had seized Algeria and Morocco. The Axis had been ousted from Africa by an Allied squeeze on Tunisia. The conquest of Sicily and the landings in Italy had demolished the walls of Hitler's "Fortress Europe." Mussolini had been deposed, and Italy had surrendered.

In the Pacific theatre, however, no comparable advances at the expense of the Japanese were made. Allied production had not reached the point that a campaign against the third Axis partner could be conducted on a scale equal to the offensives directed at Germany and Italy. No such stock piles of materials as were accumulated in England and Africa could at the same time be stored at Pacific bases. No large body of men labored to get supplies to China in amounts that equalled the tons of goods dispatched to Russia by the Persian Gulf Command. The Pacific remained the Allied secondary front throughout 1943 and much of 1944.

Yet more war materials went to the Asiatic area in America's second year of participation in the struggle than had been dreamed of in 1942. In addition more trained men were available, and there were no more shoestring invasions on the order of the Guadalcanal campaign. During 1943, therefore, the limited offensive against the Japanese continued at points scattered across the Pacific from the Aleutians to Australia and from Burma to Hawaii.

This vast Pacific theatre was divided into five command areas, and in each zone operations against the Japanese were pressed as vigorously as the complications of supply and reinforcement would permit. These five areas were the South Pacific, the Central Pacific, the Southwest Pacific, the Alaska Defense Command, and the China-Burma-India theatre. In each sector the Japanese sustained heavy blows that repeatedly demonstrated the growing power of America.

No better example of the low priority rating of the Pacific front could be given than the campaign conducted in the zone of the Alaska Defense Command. Since the battle for the Aleutians was fought in North America, it, in many ways, brought the war closer home to most Americans than any episode of the conflict. The Japanese never made a concerted effort to expand their original seizures in the Aleutians, but no one at first could have been certain that a strategy of watchful waiting would be followed. The Alaskan delegate in Congress, for one, was far from content with the lack of attention paid to his area, but his pleas went unheeded and military power went to North Africa and the South Pacific. In the main, the people of the United States let the General Staff handle the matter without criticism.

The Japanese had made their first enry into the Aleutians at the time of their move against Midway in the summer of 1942. The feint at Alaska was intended to draw American naval strength to the north to protect the Western Hemisphere, leaving the bulk of the Nipponese fleet free to scoop up Midway and straddle the Central Pacific. The United States Navy, however, correctly read the signs, and the enemy code, and concentrated on Midway while the Japanese had things their own way on Kiska, Agattu, and Attu.

The Japenese landings on those three outer islands of the Aleutian chain started on June 3, 1942, the day that the great sea battle at Midway began. They used a comparatively small number of warships in these diversionary moves, two small carriers, three cruisers, and fewer than fifteen destroyers comprising their total force. On the morning of June 3, nineteen planes from the carriers bombed and strafed Dutch Harbor and killed twenty-five men at the Army barracks of Fort Mears on Unalaska Island. Over nearby Umnak Island, where Army engineers had secretly labored for five months to build an airfield, the Japanese were suprised by a squadron of P-40s, and several of the enemy planes were knocked down. The next day forty Japanese planes continued their raids on Dutch Harbor while their ships slipped westward under cover of a heavy fog. Then while the twenty-five dead at Fort Mears were being counted and a survey of the damage to the dock facilities taken, a worried radio message flashed from Kiska: "Unidentified ships entering harbor." The silence that followed made it clear that Kiska was in enemy hands. The Japanese had lost most of their planes, but they had occupied territory in North America.

Thereafter the Aleutian campaign settled down into a slow grueling struggle to drive out the invaders. It was a hit or miss campaign complicated by tenuous supply lines, wretched weather, and inadequate equipment. It was a long-distance campaign with the commanding general stationed in distant San Francisco, dispatching men and materials without much knowledge of the problems involved. It was a campaign without glory, with more decorations won and fewer awarded, it was said, than on any other front. It was a campaign strange and wonderful, according to Fletcher Pratt's *Fleet Against Japan*, "a mixture of courage, brilliance, bungling, resource and lack of resources, divided command and unified purpose, all under the veil of a censorship that yielded nothing to those of Germany or China for restrictiveness and sheer stupidity."

Aerial reconnaissance revealed that approximately ten thousand Japenese had been landed in Kiska, Attu, and Agattu, a sizeable force in view of the small number of men used by the defenders. Once established the Japanese set to work constructing air strips, a bomber runway on Attu and one for fighters on Kiska. Later they started building seaplane ramps, hangars, and a submarine base. They laid out roads and strung telephone lines. They acted like they had come to stay.

At the outset all the Americans had to use against the invaders were a few planes and submarines. There were too many men-of-war moving toward the Solomons and the Mediterranean to permit battleships and cruisers to be spared for Alaska, but a few submarines were available for the Aleutians patrol. One of them, the *Growler*, made its way into the shallow waters of Kiska's harbor on July 4 and sank three Japanese destroyers, and before the end of the month five more enemy warships were torpedoed.

The chief weapon in the Aleutians, of course, was the bomber. Some heavy and medium bombers were flown in to supplement the Catalina flying boats already on hand, and in spite of the persistent fogs and storms they pressed their attacks on Japanese installations. The Eleventh Air Force conducted hundreds of raids in weather that under normal conditions would have caused all planes to be grounded. Airmen in the PBYs did everything from patrol duty to dive bombing, and blood-curdling bombing it was with pilot and co-pilot having to stand up after the bombs were released to throw their combined strength into the task of pulling the lumbering plane out of its dive.

Largely for the purpose of obtaining an air base for operations against the Japanese, General Simon Bolivar Buckner ordered the occupation of Adak, an island only a short jump from Kiska. An idea of the difficulties with which the Alaska Defense Command was confronted may be gained from a listing of the vessels in the motley armada used in the attack: old and new freighters, two old four-masted schooners, fishing scows, a couple of yachts, tugs, barges, and a paddle-wheel river boat. On August 30 that amazing array of American naval might bore down on Adak and took over the island.

When the men and supplies were landed, it was discovered that the boxes of materials contained almost no construction equipment and few guns. Nevertheless the men improvised, exchanges were made, and the air strip was constructed on schedule. Within ten days an airdrome had been completed, and bombers were taking off for their runs. The Adak base and a second one built some two hundred miles farther west on Amchitka after it was taken over in January, 1943, put American planes in easy reach of Kiska and Attu. Between March 1 and May 15, 1943, 233 raids were made against targets on Kiska, and Attu suffered a similar siege.

Some time before the good weather season of April and May of 1943 had come to Alaska, American successes in the Solomons and in Africa had released men and ships for action in the Aleutians. Preparations for more serious activity there had already begun before the announcement came from Japan of the execution of some of the *Hornet's* fliers who had bombed Tokyo, and doubtless the ensuing public demand for a vigorous prosecution of the war against the Japanese acted as an additional incentive to the commanders in charge of Alaskan operations.

Among the ships sent into the North Pacific for the new offensive was the *Salt Lake City*, a heavy cruiser that had already done heroic service in a number of engagements in the south. Also included were the light cruiser, *Richmond*, and four destroyers, the *Bailey*, the *Coghlan*, the *Dale*, and the *Monaghan*. At the head of this squadron was Admiral Charles H. McMorris, under orders to halt any Japanese attempt to send in reinforcements to their beleaguered garrisons.

In March, 1943, the Japanese made their expected effort to reach Kiska and Attu, and only after a three-hour fight were they

driven away. The size of the enemy convoy was indicated by the number of supporting craft, two heavy cruisers, two light cruisers, and six destroyers. Against this superior force, Admiral McMorris threw his little flotilla, and on March 27 off the Russian Komandorski Islands was fought a small but significant naval battle. Hits were scored on a cruiser and a destroyer of each fleet, so that neither side could claim a victory; nevertheless the Japanese were turned back short of the Aleutians, and the Americans could feel satisfied with the result. The *Salt Lake City* and the *Bailey* had taken heavy blows that otherwise would have been delivered against American ground forces. "That battle changed the whole complexion of things up here," General Buckner declared, "and was one of the bravest and most brilliant ever fought. If the Japanese had been able to get those reinforcements and supplies ashore we would have had a far more difficult time taking Attu."

More American men and supplies continued to go to the Alaska Defense Command. Trucks rolled over a new 1,500-mile highway stretching from Fort St. John in British Columbia to Fairbanks in Alaska. Materials were also flown in by air transport. And despite pre-war official decisions that weather conditions made air bases in the Aleutians impractical, new air strips were rushed to completion and were kept in constant use.

Then on May 11, 1943, the Americans steamed toward Attu. A large invasion force headed by the battleships *Nevada, Idaho,* and *Pennsylvania,* and the escort carrier *Nassau,* with transports enough to carry the whole Seventh Division, moved in on the rocky fog-bound little island. Under cover of a heavy bombardment from the warships, the infantry landed at Holtz Bay and at Massacre Bay on opposite sides of Attu, and at neither point did they meet with resistance. As they made their way inland, however, they found the Japanese had dug into the caves and cliffs, some three thousand of them.

The American advance across the island was slow, with sniper and machine-gun fire from the enemy dogging every move. All cracks and crevices had to be pried into, and all caves had to be examined. The Japanese refused to surrender, and only eleven prisoners were taken; the rest were killed. Typical of the character of the fighting was the final series of fanatical charges made by the enemy against American artillery positions; those who were not slain by gunfire in the suicidal attacks took their own lives rather than be captured. At last on May 30, no more Japanese were left to resist.

One of the worst American blunders of the Aleutians campaign was committed in the Attu attack. For years troops had been trained in Alaska who knew how to cope with the hazards of Arctic weather. Instead of making use of those men, however, the Seventh Division, fresh from its desert maneuvers, was hurried up from California and given the job of taking Attu. Why the experienced fighters of the Alaska Defense Command were passed over was never satisfactorily explained. For that matter no explanation has yet been given as to why proper foot gear was never given to the infantrymen, a stupidity that caused more casualties to result from frozen feet than from enemy gunfire.

Then in August came a welcome anti-climax. Two weeks were spent in softening Kiska for invasion; more than a hundred bombing missions and fifteen ship bombardments poured destruction on the Japanese defenders. Yet when troops primed for a hard struggle went ashore on August 15, no Japanese were to be found. The seven thousand Nipponese had abandoned the island without a fight. The Americans were not even allowed to enjoy the glory of a flashy conclusion to the Aleutians campaign, but that was a pleasure they were willing to forego. e

As long as the Japanese held Kiska, they not only imperilled North America but in addition they made it imposible for the United States to use it as a base for operations against Tokyo and the islands lyiug north of the Nipjponese homeland. To that extent their invasion of the Aleutians was sound defensive strategy. After the Japanese had withdrawn, however, the Kiska runways were improved, and before long American bombers were taking off for runs over the Kuriles, an arm of islands reaching out northeastward from Japan. The big Japanese naval station at Paramushiro in the Kuriles was to know no peace from that time forth.

In the China-Burma-India theatre the handicap of lack of materials slowed Allied activity far more than in the Aleutians. The year 1942 had been disastrous for the cause of the United Nations in Burma; the Japanese had poured in from Thailand and had cut the Burma Road despite the opposition of General Claire Chennault's "Flying Tiger" airmen and of General Joseph Stilwell's ground forces. With the Burma Road knocked out, the Chinese would have received no supplies at all had not a hazardous transport run across the 20,000-foot elevations of the Himalayas been established. By the close of 1943, regular flights "over the hump" were getting more war materials into China than had gone there by way of the Burma Road, but the amount that reached there was only a fraction of the nation's needs.

The struggle to keep channels of supply into China open was not waged by airmen alone. Engineers of the United States Army labored over a year to complete a new route to Burma, the "Ledo Road"; when they had it finished they erected a sign that told the story: "Welcome to Burma—Courtesy of the Hairy Ears." The "Hairy Ears" of the engineers and the men of the Air Transport Command that flew the "hump" performed prodigious feats, the most important of which was to give the Chinese the heart to continue the fight.

The Chinese sent eloquent spokesmen to America to plead for more aid. Madame Chiang-Kai-shek came in February of 1943 and addressed Congress: "Now, the prevailing opinion seems to consider the defeat of the Japanese as of relative unimportance and that Hitler is our first concern. This is not borne out by the facts. . . . Let us not forget that Japan in her occupied areas today has greater resources at her command than Germany." Later in the year Foreign Minister T. V. Soong made a journey from China to confer with President Roosevelt and Harry Hopkins and received assurances of greater help from the United Nations. Thereafter the India-China wing of the Air Transport Command steadily increased its tonnage quotas for supplies ferried across the Himilayas, and more planes were assigned to General Chennault's Fourteenth Air Force with which to bomb Japanese shipping and installations.

At that stage of the war, the leaders of the United Nations were planning in terms of a bitter-end struggle with Japan, and they looked upon China as vital to their offensive strategy. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz told a press conference late in 1943: "My opinion is that Japan will be defeated from China. . . . China with her reservoir of personnel and the possibility of airfields in easy striking distance of Japan is one of the steps along the road." For six years the Chinese had fought the invaders almost unaided, and no one could be sure of the limit of their endurance and patience. Consequently planes and supplies were moved to China regardless of the higher priorities of other fronts.

Chinese manpower supplemented the skeleton Allied force in China. Thousands of coolies furnished the hand-labor to build bases for the enlarged air force; without the help of machines numberless men and women worked to clear and level runways for the new B-24 bombers and P-38 fighters. Other Chinese were sent to a special flight training school in India and in due course returned to take part in the aerial warfare against Japan.

The additional planes and the improved airdromes enabled the Fourteenth Air Force to strike heavier blows at Japan, but stationed as it was at the end of a supply line sixteen thousand miles long, it could not maintain any prolonged attack. Sharp, stinging stabs at Japanese-held ports tied up materials by raining destruction down on the enemy's transshipment centers. Japanese ships were sunk in great numbers. Occasional raids against such strategic points as Honk Kong and Formosa did considerable damage. "We're a thorn in their side," an American officer commented. "We aren't serious but we hurt. The Japanese are like boxers: if they take off their gloves to dig out the thorn, somebody is going to bop them right smack in the face."

Aerial protection for the Chinese armies was a significant contribution of the Americans to their ally. No longer could Japanese planes swoop low over Chinese lines, for American and Chinese airmen were waiting to give battle. Instead the Allied air force now held the initiative, and Japanese ground troops suffered recurrent strafing attacks. Cooperation between the air arm and the infantry made it possible for the Chinese to stiffen their resistance to the better equipped Nipponese.

In the spring of 1943 the battle front between the opposing armies in China extended over two thousand miles from Manchuria in the north to points below the Yagtze River in the south. In the north the rival forces faced each other across a thousand-mile stretch of the Yellow River. There for three years the Japanese had been prevented from making a crossing in spite of their repeated attempts to establish a bridgehead at the river's bend near Sian. The principal Japanese objective in the south was the new capital of China, Chungking, towards which they had driven seven hundred miles up the Yangtze.

Chungking had been established as the capital by the Nationalist Government after Nanking's capture in 1938. Fifty million Chinese had made the great trek inland through the Yangtze's gorges, moving machinery for industry, books for libraries, equipment for a university. Other millions had remained nearer the coast and had fought as guerrillas to slow down the enemy's advance on the capital. At Ichang the Japanese at last had been checked, three hundred miles short of their goal.

In May, 1943, a Japanese army of eight thousand men began to push up the Yangtze from the Ichang base. For a time they threatened Chungking and all of Hunan, Szechwan, and Hupeh provinces as well. Then it was that the value of the new Chinese Air Force and the strengthened Fourteenth Air Force was demonstrated; called into action by Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, they eliminated Japanese aerial opposition within two days. They then flew over Nipponese positions, strafing troops, smashing railheads, sinking river boats, and ripping up supply lines. A counterattack by Chinese infantrymen completed the rout, and the Japanese were thrown back to Ichang with heavy losses.

The Chinese could look with grim satisfaction on the fifteen thousand casualties they had inflicted on the Japanese, and they could contemplate future battles with increased air support with

even greater pleasure. They still lacked the power to launch a campaign to roll the enemy back toward the sea, and long months of waiting they knew lay ahead. Yet now they could feel that their six years of war were not to be wasted. They had left five million of their dead behind, but they had in turn killed at least half that number of Japanese. They now looked forward to evening the score.

The scarcity of war materials likewise retarded the march of the United Nations through the islands of the Pacific. In each of the zones, the South Pacific, the Central Pacific, and the Southwest Pacific, requests for men, ships, and supplies had to go at least partially unanswered. Commanders came in time to feel that they were fighting a colonial war, so distant from the mother country that the Washington and London leaders were out of touch and little concerned with developments. There is good reason to believe that on occasion the jungle battles, involving as they did small bands of men who won islands with unfamiliar names, were lightly brushed aside in favor of the more important campaigns in Africa and Italy. Pacific commanders grew bitter and late in 1943 General MacArthur spoke out: "My strategic conception for the Pacific theatre . . . contemplates massive strokes against only main strategic objectives, utilizing surprise and air-ground striking power supported and assisted by the fleet. . . . Island-hopping with extravagant losses and slow progress—some press reports indicating victory postponed as late as 1949—is not my idea of how to end the war as soon and as cheaply as possible."

This statement from MacArthur annoyed Navy men who well understood that he was making a pointed reference to Vice Admiral Frederick J. Horne's earlier announcement that "we are planning material and ships for a war that will last at least until 1949." They were pained that the general had chosen to disregard the comment of the Pacific fleet's commander-in-chief, Admiral Nimitz, that "it will be over long before the gloomy prediction of 1949." Between MacArthur and the Navy no love was lost as years of bickering over personalities and policies would attest. The Navy looked upon the general as a glory-seeker, anxious to seize upon every event in the whole Pacific as a matter pertaining to his command. A fleet ballad expressed this sentiment:

"His area is quite cosmic, and capricious as a breeze;
Twenty times as big as Texas, bigger than Los Angeles,
It springs from lost Atlantis up to where the angels play.
And no sparrow falls unheeded, it's in Doug's communique."

For his part General MacArthur disagreed with the admirals on the question of the general strategy for the Pacific campaign against Japan, and he found particularly noxious the Navy's early policy of hoarding its ships for a future reckoning with the enemy. The ultimate goal of both MacArthur and Nimitz was, of course, Tokyo, but they differed on the route to be taken to reach their destination. MacArthur's idea was to make the Philippine Islands the major base for operations, and he was anxious to hurdle the islands between Australia and the Philippines with as little delay as possible; with him a return to the Philippines became almost an obsession. Nimitz, on the other hand, preferred to make use of the China coast in the move towards Tokyo, with the envelopment of the Philippines as a by-product of a greater tactic.

MacArthur believed that the Southwest Pacific should be the favored area, while Nimitz advocated a more easterly approach. Nimitz planned to clear a way to the Asiatic mainland through the Central Pacific; the Navy was to move west from Pearl Harbor and north from the Solomons. Islands that might serve as enemy bases for aerial or naval operations were to be seized or rendered impotent, while all others were to be by-passed and the Japanese on them left to "wither on the vine." To Nimitz Truk and Guam were of major importance, but to MacArthur they were incidental. MacArthur felt that Luzon and Manila were the obligatory immediate concerns, and he steadily called for naval support with which to strike up the New Guinea coast to Hollandia, thence across to Morotai and the Philippines. It is not unfair to either leader to point out the obvious: each advocated the area in which he would have supreme command.

The two strategists were, of course, not contradictory, for each complemented the other. The neutralizing of Rabaul, for example, was as important to a Southwest Pacific drive as it was to one in the Central Pacific, since Rabaul was the base from which the Japanese reinforced their garrisons in both the Solomons and New Guinea. Naturally Admiral Nimitz understood that the Philippines must be retaken, and he cooperated with General MacArthur to the extent of permitting him to have ships on a lend-lease basis. MacArthur never received as much naval support as he requested, but then no commander ever had as much of anything as he wanted. At last in 1944, in the Philippines the two strategists converged, for there Nimitz as well as MacArthur achieved a major objective when the Japanese fleet was finally brought to action shortly before the American invasion.

The Pacific war was as difficult and taxing as any in the history of the United States. To many Americans the amphibious operations in the Pacific had little meaning. The struggle for insignificant coral islands obscure of name and location sometimes appeared to the public to be pointless unless the purpose might be to engage the enemy as a matter of routine. Yet no stop was made on the way to Tokyo except to wrest from the Japanese an air strip or a harbor that was vital to the grand design. Further, Noel F. Busch, writing in *Life* for May 8, 1944, adds this summation of the problems of the Pacific campaign: "On technical grounds it is exciting because it calls not only for land, sea and air methods on an unprecedented space scale, but also because its battlefield is totally unequipped with the conveniences of ordinary war, like cities, railroads or even accurate maps. Finally, on strategic grounds, it is especially exciting because in addition to being of unprecedented immensity, the whole layout is entirely fresh, not only to warfare but even to civilization; because the enemy is of a new and special variety; and climactically because all the above conditions imply an unprecedented set of problems for a commander-in-chief."

The possession of a common objective in the great Japanese base of Rabaul on New Britain compelled the two commanders of the South Pacific and the Southwest Pacific theatres to work in close conjunction. General MacArthur was named as the chief for the operation, and that threw Admiral "Bull" Halsey, in charge of the South Pacific zone, under MacArthur's command. Relations between these self-willed men remained surprisingly cordial, and the two leaders set a high standard for cooperation between the two services. Together they made the slow climb up the ladder of islands toward Rabaul and beyond.

MacArthur's initial moves were made in New Guinea. In January, 1943, the long bunker-to-bunker struggle for Buna and Gona near the island's southeastern tip came to an end. Thereupon troops began to edge along the New Guinea coast, an Australian division marching into Lae on September 16. Salamaua, Nassau Bay, and Finschhafen completed the conquest of the area around Huon Gulf. Another year was to pass before the Allies were near enough to New Guinea's northern end to make their first big jump to Morotai and on to the Philippines.

From Lae General MacArthur next hopped across a narrow strait to New Britain, the island on which Rabaul was located. Landings were made in December, 1943, at Cape Gloucester and at Arawe where the "Bushmasters" of the 158th Infantry established their reputation as jungle fighters. Then in the first three months of 1944 the occupation of New Ireland completed half of the circle around Rabaul. By that time many of the problems of supply had been solved and new equipment began to be the rule instead of the exception. A pasasge from Gilbert Cant's *The Great Pacific Victory*, describing the Arawe invasion, is indicative of the machines then in use: "Meanwhile, the Japanese were subjected to a new form of bombardment: two amphibious trucks (DUKWS, or "ducks") leading the buffaloes and alligators into the harbor, were loaded with men operating bazookas. In 15 minutes the miniature rockets were considered highly effective. At 7:15 the buffaloes and alligators raced for the beach, the former firing as they went, and landed the assault troops." Perhaps it should be explained that "buffaloes" were amphibious tanks, that "alligators" were amphibious troop-carrying tractors, and that "bazookas" were rocket launchers.

Admiral Halsey, meanwhile, had been making his way through the Solomons in order to approach Rabaul from the east and south. Mopping up of Japanese pockets of resistance had been completed on Guadalcanal in the early months of 1943, and from that island Halsey began his drive. On February 21 the Russell Islands were taken without opposition, the Japanese having pulled out a few days before the large American invasion force went ashore. There an air strip was constructed, an excellent base from which fighter planes could operate during the step up the second rung of the ladder, New Georgia.

At Munda on New Georgia the Japanese had established one of their strongest air fields in the South Pacific; its capture was essential, therefore, for the operations to follow. Preliminary landings by Marine Raiders were made on June 20 at the southeastern end of New Georgia at Segi at the opposite end of the island from Munda, but the real line of attack was revealed on June 30 when elements of the Forty-third and Thirty-seventh Divisions fought their way onto the beaches of Rendova Island and of Zanana on New Georgia, each only a few miles from the true objective. The men sang "Marching Through Georgia" as they hacked their way through the jungle, but it was more of a crawl than a march. A Japanese garrison of less than five thousand men held off a force three times as large for over a month. At last on August 5 the Americans, reinforced by the Twenty-seventh Division and part of the Twenty-fifth, cut the defenders to shreds, and only then was Munda taken.

Bougainville was the next important stop. On the way the islands of Vella Lavella, Kolombangara, and Mono were used as stepping stones. In addition a diversionary attack was made by one battalion on Choiseul, and as had been hoped Japanese reinforcements were rushed there from Bougainville. Then on October 31, 1943, the Third Marine Division hit the shores of Empress Augusta Bay, and the long bloody contest for Bougainville began. The Japanese were prepared for the landings, for the steady development of the campaign had already made clear

the course the Americans would take. Only after two assault waves had been wiped out by enemy fire was the beachhead established. The Marines were joined by the Thirty-seventh and the Americal Divisions, and together they fought for months in a vain effort to clear the island. Eighteen months later, after the war had moved thousands of miles beyond Bougainville, other troops were still engaged in the struggle against the tenacious foe.

With the foothold on Bougainville gained, the encirclement of Rabaul was completed. It lay exposed to attack from the east by Halsey's forces at Empress Augusta Bay and from the west by MacArthur's troops at Cape Gloucester and Arawe. Nevertheless the decision was reached to by-pass the Japanese stronghold. So many enemy troops were prepared to defend Rabaul that a major offensive would have been necessary to reduce it, and it was reasoned that the desired result could be obtained by occupying the islands that lay across the Japanese line of supply to their big base. Consequently Los Negros in the Admiralty Islands, lying 150 miles to the north, was seized in March, 1944. and in that way Rabaul and its companion base at Kavieng on New Ireland were rendered useless to Japan. Rabaul was neutralized rather than reduced.

The process of by-passing and neutralizing enemy strongholds enabled the main body of the Allied forces to push on rapidly, but a disagreeable mopping-up job was left behind. The Japanese, as events proved, did not wither on the vine; instead they dug in, obtained food from the natives, and flourished. The thankless task of dislodging them usually fell to the Australians; and they moved from island to island in the wake of the advancing armies cleaning out caves and fox holes and bunkers. They were still hard at it when the war ended.

The struggle in New Georgia and Bougainville was carried on under all the customary hazards of fighting in the tropics: stifling temperatures, steady rains, thick undergrowth, and malarial fever made life unbearable. Sometimes the jungle was so thick that the men were afraid to use mortars and grenades for fear of being unable to loft them far enough to prevent injury to themselves. The troops frequently had to wade waist-deep in water. Always there was the stench of the dead, musty odor of the mangrove swamps.

American soldiers demonstrated, however, that they had become masters of the technique of jungle warfare. By the time of the drives for Munda and Bougainville they had changed their uniforms from blue dungarees and khaki to spotted yellow and green and brown coveralls that blended with the tropic foliage. They had learned to sit patiently for hours waiting for the enemy to make the first false move. They had learned the fine art of infiltration. They now avoided the dangers of massed attacks. They had discovered a suitable method to combat Japanese dugouts and bunkers with flame-throwers. With those tactics they won—with the aid of naval and air support.

The campaign through the islands of the South and Southwest Pacific would have been far more labored without the aid of General George C. Kenney's Fifth Air Force. Proponents of air power, in fact, will argue that the speed of MacArthur's and Halsey's drives depended on the rapidity with which air strips could be won or built. As General Kenney stated it, the function of the air arm was "to help ground troops get the land on which we build airdromes and advance the bomber line, from which we help them go ahead to get some more land for more airdromes, and keep the process going." General MacArthur's communiques are a testimonial to the part played by the Fifth Air Force in keeping the process and the whole campaign going against Rabaul: on October 12, 1943, a thousand pilots used 350 tons of bombs to knock out 177 planes there; on October 18 sixty more planes were shot down; on October 23-24 no less than 123 more were destroyed; on October 25, 58 planes; on October 29, 45 planes.

While preventing raids by Japanese planes from Rabaul and Kavieng with one hand, Kenney with the other forestalled the landing of reinforcements by the enemy's navy. Clashes with Japanese ships were frequent occurrences, the most successful action being in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea. A Nipponese convoy of 22 vessels was sighted on March 1, 1943, as it attempted to slip 12 transports loaded with troops into the Huon Gulf region of New Guinea. Bombers of the Fifth Air Force and of the Royal Australian Air Force fought off the Japanese for two days, and with the loss of only four planes, gave the enemy's ships, planes and men a terrible mauling. At least 18 of the Japanese vessels, including three light cruisers and seven destroyers, 100 planes, and some 15,000 men were lost to Japan.

The importance of the Battle of the Bismarck Sea has been disputed since the day it was fought, a dispute growing in part out of the rivalry between the Army and Navy. Again it was an expansive communique of General MacArthur that started the controversy. "We have achieved," he announced, "a victory of such completeness as to assume the proportions of a major disaster for the enemy. . . . Our decisive success cannot fail to have the most important results on the enemy's strategic and tactical plans. . . . His campaign, for the time being at least, is completely dislocated. . . . A merciful Providence must have guarded us in this great victory." Those words started a wave of excitement, and the belief grew that a victory comparable to Midway had been won. The critics of MacArthur, not without some justification, blamed the general for making a misleading statement. Regardless, the Battle of the Bismarck Sea did halt the enemy at a critical point in the struggle to win back the Philippines. Possibly it can be called the Midway of the South Pacific.

In the course of the campaign, American airmen dealt Japan a heavy blow by striking down a single Japanese plane. An occupant of that plane was Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander-in-chief of the Japanese Navy. Yamamoto had been the admiral who had plotted the attack on Pearl Harbor, and he it was who had announced that he would dictate peace terms to the United States in the White House. On April 17, 1943, a secret dispatch from Secretary Frank Knox was received in the Solomons outlining Yamamoto's itinerary for an inspection tour of Japanese bases. The admiral was scheduled to land at the Kahili airfield on Bougainville at 9:45 a. m. April 18, and Secretary Knox directed that "maximum effort" be exerted to knock out Yamamoto's plane.

Accordingly a reception committee of American P-38 Lightnings went out to meet the admiral. As predicted eight Japanese planes came in on schedule, two bombers carrying Yamamoto and his staff with an escort of six fighters. Captain Thomas G. Lanphier, Jr., accounted for one of the bombers and Lieutenant Rex Barber the other, Captain Lanphier being credited with finishing the admiral. Had the Japanese known of the advance information contained in Secretary Knox's dispatch, they doubtless would have made hurried changes in their secret code, but as it was they attributed the abrupt ending of Yamamoto's career to a chance attack and went on using their code. A decoded Japanese radiogram of course had given the admiral away. The shot that caused his death was no chance attack; it was an ambush. It was one of the most singular incidents of the war.

Throughout the Solomons-New Guinea offensive the ground forces had the advantage of good naval support. The Navy furnished ships to fight and protect and construction battalions, "Seabees," to build and develop, and both contributed much to the campaign. The aid given by the Navy was necessarily limited because of other commitments; almost no battleships or carriers were on hand until the last of 1943. Late in the year the aged *New Mexico* and the *West Virginia* ventured into the Solomons, and at the same time the carriers *Saratoga* and *Princeton* put in their appearance. For one brief but effective strike at Rabaul three new carriers were loaned to Halsey, the *Essex*, the *Bunker Hill*, and the *Independence*, but after that one raid they were withdrawn to the Central Pacific.

For the most part Halsey and MacArthur had to make cruisers and destroyers do. The numbers sunk indicate the service they rendered in screening the landings of the invading ground forces. Among those lost were the cruisers *Chicago* and *Helena* and destroyers *De Haven, Strong, Chevalier, McKean,* and *Brownson.*. In addition heavy damage was suffered by the cruisers *Honolulu* and *St. Louis* and the destroyers *O'Bannon, Selfridge,* and *Spence.* Two British vessels were likewise damaged in the operations, the New Zealand cruiser *Leander* and Australia's cruiser *Australia.*

These casualties among the Allied vessels were the price of the severe toll taken on Japanese ships and shore installations. Munda and Kavieng were pummeled by cruisers and battleships; Rabaul was pounded by carrier planes. The main job of course was to land the invaders. As Admiral Richmond K. Turner put it: "The fellow we are working for is the fellow that walks on the ground. Whatever we are doing we are doing solely to get that boy on the beach." Every invasion shore was softened by salvos before landings were made, and all transports and Higgins boats and barges operated under the protecting guns of naval escorts. The Japanese threw everything they dared risk into the struggle. Practically every Allied vessel from battleship to PT boat scored hits and forced the Japanese to pay heavily for any ship damaged. For example in the Battle of Kula Gulf off New Georgia where on July 6, 1943, the *Helena* was torpedoed, nine Japanese cruisers and destroyers are believed to have been sunk.

Where the Navy served in a supporting role in the south, it ran the show and acted as the star performer in the Central Pacific. For that zone Admiral Nimitz husbanded his ships, waiting until the building program had provided enough new vessels to assure overwhelming superiority before launching an offensive. Not until November of 1943 did he feel that the Navy was ready; then at last he announced: "Henceforth we propose to give the Jap no rest anywhere." This challenge the admiral hoped the Japanese would overhear, and accept, for his chief purpose thereafter was to engage the enemy in some final, decisive battle that would open the way to China and Japan.

The rebuilt United States Navy of which Nimitz was the Pacific commander-in-chief, had become a floating powerhouse. At the head of the battle line were the mighty 45,000-ton sister ships, the *New Jersey* and *Iowa.* Six fast 35,000-ton battleships, the *North Carolina,* the *Washington,* the *South Dakota,* the *Massachusetts,* the *Indiana,* and the *Alabama,* had been added to the nine cumbersome "fat boys" of the *California, Maryland,* and *Tennessee* type already on duty. New heavy cruisers like the *Baltimore*

and the *Boston*, light cruisers like the *Mobile* and *Santa Fe*, and destroyers galore crowded each other for room.

The increase in carrier strength, however was the most remarkable development. At the start of 1943 only the *Enterprise* and the *Saratoga* were in the Pacific, the one remaining carrier, the *Ranger*, being in the Atlantic. The building program, started years before, had produced for Pacific service by the end of the year a score of new carriers, and while many of them were converted merchant vessels a considerable number were big armor-plated ships. The *Essex*, with new "Hellcat" planes on its flight deck, was the first of the heavy battle-carriers to arrive at Pearl Harbor, and it was followed by the second *Yorktown*, the second *Lexington*, and the *Bunker Hill*. Intermediate cruiser-type carriers also came, among them the *Independence*, the *Belleau Wood*, and the *Cowpens*. Light escorts like the *Corregidor* and the *Sangamon*, useful but vulnerable, rounded out the carriers.

Most of these warships were put into a newly organized Fifth Fleet for Central Pacific operations with Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, the commander at the Battle of Midway, at its head. The most notable unit of the Fifth Fleet was Admiral Marc A. Mitscher's Task Force 58, a carrier group with tremendous hit-and-run striking power. Of Mitscher's force only the *Enterprise* had been afloat at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor; all of his other ships had been launched since that day. These were the leaders and the ships that Nimitz planned to use when he issued his November challenge.

In mid-November an intensive bombing of the Gilbert and Marshall Islands began, and on November 21 landings were made on Tarawa and Makin and Apemama in the Gilberts. Only two men were lost in taking Apemama. Makin was stormed by the Twenty-seventh Division, commanded by General Ralph C. Smith, and fell after a three-day struggle. On Tarawa it was a different story, for while the fight lasted only two hours longer than at Makin, casualties were many times greater. The fierce resistance of the Japanese on Tarawa made this one of the bloodiest battles of American history.

On all of the tiny islets that formed the Tarawa atoll, and especially on Betito, the Japanese had prepared a formidable array of concrete and steel pillboxes dug deep into the sands that spread away from the water's edge. A massive barrage had been poured into the atoll prior to the landings; warships pumped in two thousand, nine hundred tons of shells, and planes dropped seven hundreds tons of bombs. Some predicted that no Japanese would still be alive by the time the softening-up process had ended and the invasion had started.

Tarawa, however, was not to be another Kiska as fire from coastal batteries showed when the Higgins boats moved in to disgorge the first wave of invaders. Then things began to go wrong. The water around the islands had been misjudged and proved too shallow for the Higgins boats. They were grounded on coral reefs, and the troops had to jump over the sides and wade several hundred yards to the shore, making easy targets for the Japanese machine-gun crews. By the end of the first day the landing force had driven inland less than seventy yards, and each yard had cost ten American lives.

In the fight for the square mile of earth named Betito, the Second Marine Division's assault battalions were cut to ribbons. Of the three thousand men who took part, almost every one was a casualty; nearly one thousand were killed and two thousand were wounded. The Navy's losses brought the total of dead and wounded to nearly three thousand, seven hundred. Yet Tarawa was won; after seventy-six hours the five thousand Japanese on shore had been killed. General Holland M. Smith, Marine commander for the operation, bluntly added this postscript to bloody Tarawa: "We've got the toughest and smartest fighting men in the world. But as long as the war lasts some of them somewhere will be getting killed. We have got to acknowledge that or else we might as well stay home." General "Howlin' Mad" Smith was speaking to critics at home who were distressed at the long casualty lists, but his words deserve study by all men who make, or encourage, war.

From the Gilberts, the Navy made its way to the Marshalls. A massive armada bore down upon those islands, fifteen battleships, five large cruisers, two light cruisers, and a host of escort carriers, cruisers, destroyers, and small craft. Beginning on January 30, 1944, and continuing for forty-eight hours, five thousand tons of bombs and shells were rained on each of the three small islands of the Marshall group, on Kwajalein, Namur, and Roi. On February 1, the landing forces pounced on Kwajalein.

The mistakes of Tarawa were not repeated in the Marshalls. Instead of driving at the strongest or nearest islands, the approach was indirect and at an unexpected point. Instead of a bombardment of only four hours, forty-eight hours were used to throw in fifteen thousand tons of explosives; included were hundreds of bombs twice the size used at Tarawa. Then when the first soldiers went ashore, there was no miscalculation of the water's depth and no frontal attack that cut battalions to pieces. The defenders were reported dazed by the shock of the terrific bombardment. The results spoke for themselves. Kwajalein was taken with few casualties after only four days of fighting. Although the Japanese death toll was as high as at Tarawa, five thousand men, the Seventh Division lost less than two hundred killed and seven hundred wounded. The Fourth Marine Division, moreover, encountered little resistance on Roi and Namur. Eniwetok, the most westerly atoll of the Marshalls, fell on February 16, and thereupon the Navy left the Japanese on the other Marshall Islands to wither on the vine.

In commenting on the attack on the Marshalls, Admiral Turner admitted: "Maybe we had too many men and too many ships for this job. I prefer to do things that way. It was many lives saved for us." No criticism can be offered of any plan of battle that cuts down the number of casualties. Yet the wisdom of using thirty thousand men and a naval force equal to the entire pre-war Navy can be questioned in the light of the great need of ships farther south. The Japanese garrisons in the Marshalls were no larger than those in New Guinea and the Solomons, and yet Admiral Nimitz dispatched a battleship or a carrier to the Southwest Pacific as if he were parting with half the Navy's strength. MacArthur's complaints were not without some foundation, for clearly ships were available in the Central Pacific, the admiral's chosen area. It may reasonably be asked whether the saving of lives on Bougainville was any less important than at Kwajalein.

A reason for holding together such a great fleet of capital ships was the expectation and the hope that the Japanese Navy would give battle. In mid-February of 1944 an invitation to that effect was issued when Admiral Spruance and Admiral Mitscher took their fleet to the enemy's powerful Central Pacific base at Truk. With the battleships *New Jersey* and *Iowa* and the carriers *Yorktown*, *Essex*, *Enterprise*, *Bunker Hill*, *Intrepid*, and *Belleau Wood* leading the way, the fleet moved within sixty miles of Truk and proceeded to blast the famous station for a period of thirty-six hours. The Hellcats knocked down one hundred and twenty-seven Japanese planes and destroyed seventy-four others on the ground. Then Helldiver and Dauntless dive bombers and Avenger torpedo bombers tore into the ships in the anchorage, sinking two light cruisers, three destroyers, an ammunition ship, a seaplane tender, two oilers, two gunboats, and eight cargo ships. Nineteen American planes were lost. The Navy communique announced: "The Pacific fleet has returned in Truk the visit made by the Japanese fleet on December 7, 1941, and effected the partial settlement of the debt."

Japan's navy, however, did not elect to give battle. From Truk the Fifth Fleet went on to make similar raids on Palau, Saipan, Tinian, and Yap. Again and again Truk was brought under American bombsights. Finally the clash came in the Philippines in June of 1944 where a strong unit of the Japanese fleet was decisively beaten in a major battle. The Central Pacific had become an Allied sea.

Thus by the spring of 1944 the secondary front had become a major scene of operations. The much-scorned strategy of island hopping had driven the enemy steadily back in the South and Central Pacific. The United States Navy had at last been built to sufficient strength to challenge the Japanese even in their own waters. MacArthur and Nimitz had been originally ordered to hold the Japanese while the war in Europe was pressed to a conclusion. How well they had obeyed a war-map of the Pacific would reveal. Japan had been held and pushed back. The Philippines were not far away.

CHAPTER XII

Preparation for D-Day

In a sense the preparation for D-Day, the day for a northern invasion of Europe, had been in progress for three years before that early morning in June, 1944, when Allied troops landed on the Norman coast. From the moment that the British had been pushed into the sea at Dunkirk, they had looked forward to the day that they could return. The British hope came to be shared by the Russians and the Americans as they in turn were drawn into the war. Together they had fought campaigns to make such a day possible: the Russians before Leningrad, Moscow, and Stalingrad; the British and Americans in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. The battles of production and supply, the naval warfare of the Atlantic, the bombing of Germany had all played their important parts. Now all of these preliminary efforts were redoubled as the Second World War reached its climax.

The contribution of the Russians consisted of their crushing counteroffensive launched against the Germans in November of 1942. In the spring of 1943 and for a few days in the summer of that year, the Germans were again to wrest the initiative

from the Soviet Union, but those were the only occasions after November, 1942, that the Red Army was on the defensive. The Soviet advance was sometimes brought to a halt which lasted for several weeks, but for the most part Russian progress was steady. Frequently gains were made that were spectacular.

The early months of 1943 were disastrous for the Nazis as the Red Army again demonstrated its superiority in winter fighting. In ten weeks the Russians had ploughed through deep snows to force the Germans back from one hundred to three hundred miles. From Orel to the Caucasus the Germans were in retreat along a seven hundred mile front. Kursk was taken by the Russians in the midst of a raging blizzard in mid-February, and Rostov and Kharkov soon followed. The muds of March slowed the drive down just as it appeared that the whole Ukraine might be cleared of the *Wehrmacht*.

The Germans promptly demonstrated, however, that their armies still possessed tremendous striking power. On March 8 they again attacked on the Donets front, and by March 14 they were once more in possession of Kharkov. Other minor Nazi thrusts resulted in negligible advances of 20 miles, but as March came to a close the Russians had brought the *Wehrmacht* to a standstill.

The second anniversary of the war, June 22, found the struggle in a quiescent state. On that historic date a Moscow broadcast gave a summary of the losses suffered since the Nazi invasion: Germany had lost six million four hundred thousand men, forty-two thousand four hundred tanks, forty-three thousand planes; Russia had lost four million two hundred thousand men, thirty thousand tanks, twenty-three thousand planes. While a recheck would bring downward a revision of those figures, they, nevertheless, are representative of the size and cost of the sanguinary conflict.

In July Field Marshal Gunther von Kluge opened what at first promised to be a third powerful German summer offensive in Russia. He used 400,000 Nazis to stab spearheads through the Soviet lines at Orel and at Belgorod, in the hope of encircling a large portion of the Red Army's best troops and armor near Kursk. The Nazi failure to achieve even that limited objective gave definite proof of what had been suspected for months: the strength of the German armies in Russia was spent. For only nine days were they able to maintain their advance. Thereafter they were to retreat and hold and then retreat again with Berlin as the ultimate stopping point.

With the battlecry of *Na Zapad*, "Westward," the Soviet forces fell upon the faltering Nazis and routed them in a counterattack that the Nazis labeled "bone-grinding." Forty-two-ton tanks from the Urals factories, together with British Churchill tanks and American Shermans, formed a steamroller that flattened the *Wehrmacht*; and the famed Russian artillery was at its best in destroying enemy pillboxes and tanks. Even German war correspondents began to admit that in that sector at least their army was inferior. "Today's setting sun," one Nazi news dispatch ran, "has seen more soldiers dying than soldiers sleeping. For every single minute during the entire day all of us, from the last private to the highest staff officer, have been conscious of the monstrous Russian superiority."

That superiority the Russians fully exploited. In that July drive the Red Army first erased the Nazis' Orel salient, and then took Orel and Belgorod. In August, for the second time in six months, the Germans were swept out of Kharkov. By the middle of September they had lost Stalino and along with it their control of all the industry of the Donets basin. A week later the fortress city of Bryansk and the port city of Novorissiisk were in Russian hands, and between those two points Soviet armies totaling three million men pressed the Nazis back everywhere. Forty miles of steel and concrete fortifications failed to slow the giant Soviet machine before Smolensk. At last on the banks of the Dnieper the Germans made a stand, and there in October the Russians' summer and autumn offensive was brought to a temporary halt.

The Soviet drive to the Dnieper had produced remarkable results. The Germans had been rolled back from fifty to two hundred miles along a seven hundred mile front. At least one hundred thousand square miles of Russia had been reclaimed. Orel, Belgorod, Kharkov, Stalino, Bryansk, Novorossiisk, Smolensk, Poltava, Melitopol, and a dozen other important cities had been retaken, and the domes of Kiev were again in sight. Half of the Ukraine and all of the Caucasus had been cleared of the Nazis. The Donets basin was once more Russian. The Red Army was at the gateway to the Crimea. Most important, the *Wehrmacht*, while not routed, had been beaten—*Panzers, Luftwaffe*, and all.

Part of Field Marshal Erich von Manstein's retreat could be attributed, as Nazi spokesmen claimed, to the need for shortening the German lines. At only a few points were they driven pell-mell. On the whole, their withdrawal was orderly, and their continuous use of land mines to slow down their pursuers indicates that they were scarcely at a dead run. Yet the Germans would never have voluntarily made their lines so uncomfortably short nor would they have shed so much blood in the process had the Russians not made it necessary. Premier Stalin's announced estimate of German casualties for the campaign, 900,000 killed, 1,702,000 wounded and missing, and 98,000 taken prisoner, can be discounted as propaganda-laden, but almost any fraction of those figures would represent a Nazi defeat of disastrous proportions.

The German line at the Dnieper did not long hold the Russians in check. The Reds pushed on without stopping for an expected breathing spell. The Nazis massed their forces at Kiev and Melitopol in anticipation of Soviet drives there, but the Russians struck midway between those cities near Kremenchug. At that thin point in the Nazi ranks, the Reds won their first small bridgehead across the Dnieper River and promptly dug a gaping hole twenty-eight miles wide in the enemy line. By October 25, advance Soviet tank units had reached the outskirts of Krivoi Rog, seventy miles beyond the Dnieper. At the same time, crossings were made above and below Kiev. The Dnieper barrier which Hitler had insisted must be held at any cost had been breached in a few days.

On November 7, 1943, the armies of General Nikolai Vatutin fought their way into Kiev, their triumph spoiled by finding the historic old city in flames. With the Dnieper behind them and with Kiev, the major objective of the year's campaigns, in their possession, the Russians properly felt that they could write the Nazis off as an offensive threat. "Comrades," Joseph Stalin told a jubilant Moscow, "we have turned the course of the war. . . . The complete ousting of the Fascist invader is at hand."

Step by step the Germans were forced backwards; every village and city saw bitter fighting as the Russians pressed forward to free their soil of the Nazis. Gomel, Zhitomir, and Korosten fell to the relentless Red Army. On January 3, 1944, Vatutin led his troops across the old Polish border; in that one sector pre-war Russian territory had been cleared. In the north, a Soviet drive against the Nazis before Leningrad was equally successful, and by February 2 the Russians had crossed over into Estonia.

Only a year after the German debacle at Stalingrad, the Russians had reached points that were eight hundred miles to the west of that city, and daily the distance was increased. Three great Russian armies gathered momentum as they approached Rumania, with General Rodion Malinovsky, Marshal Ivan Konev, and Marshal Gregory Zhukov in command. In March the Nazi Bug River line was broken, and by the middle of the month the Russians were fighting on Axis soil in Rumania.

Finland was another Axis satellite to hear the tread of Russian boots in her village streets in the course of that awesome spring offensive. During June of 1944 Finland's Mannerheim Line crumbled before Red assaults, Viborg fell, and the little nation was almost cut in two. In the following September, unhappy Finland asked and was granted an armistice, but the German army continued to keep the war alive there just as it did in Italy after the surrender.

The tragedy of Finland was illustrative of the problems of a neutral in a world at war. To protect its neutrality it had fought and lost a war against Russia in the first months after World War II began. Following the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, the Finns, to avenge the loss of territory, had first allowed the Germans a passageway into Russia and later had made common cause with Hitler. Now at last the Finnish army had been beaten, and the prostrate nation was compelled to look on helplessly as its sovereignty was violated by two opposing armies.

In the Ukraine, the Germans' orderly retreat now turned into disorderly flight. They began to abandon their heavy equipment, taking with them only their small arms. At two railroad junctions, Moscow reported Soviet troops captured 1,600 railroad cars loaded with ammunition, food, and German wounded. The Nazi Sixth and Eighth Armies were totally destroyed. At the end of the first week in April, Marshal Konev had driven forty miles into Rumania, and Marshal Zhukov had reached the Carpathians at the old Czech border. In Budapest a Hitler ally, Admiral Nicholas Horthy, spoke gloomily to the people of Hungary: "The war is now approaching its final phase."

To the south General Andrei Yeremenko, and General Rodion Malinovsky were winning access to the shores of the Black Sea. Malinovsky was the victor at Odessa, and Yeremenko cleared the Crimea. The capture of Melitopol during the Dnieper drive had opened the way into the Crimea to the Russians, but they waited until they could mount an irresistible offensive before striking into the peninsula.

In mid-April the time came, and Soviet armies swept in from the north and east. Again Sevastopol was besieged, this time by the Russians; but where the Russians had stood for nine months in 1942, the Germans yielded in three weeks to the siege guns of Marshal Alexander Vasilevsky. Upon the fall of Sevastopol to the Nazis in 1942, the Russians' Black Sea fleet had withdrawn to safe harbors, but now it returned to shell enemy positions in the city and to block the escape by sea of the Rumanian and German defenders. In the ensuing naval action the Soviet navy sank 191 Axis ships, among them sixty-nine transport vessels.

The liberation of Sevastopol brought to a climax the Soviet campaigns preceding the invasion of Normandy. The Russian Battle in 1944 had been heavy blows to Germany at a climactic stage of the war. The part of Russia in making the Anglo-American landings in Western Europe possible was to bleed the *Wehrmacht* white and to pin down great forces that might otherwise have been stationed on the Channel coast. German casualties, by Berlin's own admission, reached into the millions. In May, 1944, Colonel Elliott

Roosevelt reported to General Eisenhower that the three years of fighting in Russia had cost the Germans four million men and that in that same period the Soviet Union's losses amounted to sixteen million soldiers and civilians. In addition, some two hundred Nazi divisions containing two million men were facing the Russians on D-Day, three times the number of Germans ready to defend France.

The apparent lack of interest in this Third Front on the part of the Anglo-American leadership provoked sharp public criticism of the entire Mediterranean policy. A British member of Parliament said that the Allied strategy was reminiscent of "an old man approaching a young bride; fascinated, sluggish, apprehensive." Was it for this halfway endeavor, it was asked with some reason, that the sacrifices of Salerno had been made?

Winston Churchill, in explanation, pointed out the opportunities offered the defenders by the rugged terrain of Italy, and he admitted that during the winter Nazi Marshals Erwin Rommel and Albert Kesselring had taken full advantage. He added: "We were . . . committed to a frontal advance in an extremely mountainous country which gave every advantage to the defense. All rivers flow at right angles to our advance and violent rains often turn these rivers in a few hours into raging torrents, thus sweeping away all military bridges . . . and sometimes leaving part of the assault-force committed to attack on the far side and beyond reach of immediate support."

To speed up the march to Rome, the Allies on January 22, 1944, tried a flanking blow at the German Gustav Line by making an amphibious landing behind it. At Nettuno and Anzio, thirty-six miles below Rome on Italy's west coast, six divisions of American and British troops went ashore and quickly gained footholds. The enemy was caught off guard, and a beachhead was established almost without firing a shot. "It was so easy . . . American troops are standing with their mouths open and shaking their heads in utter amazement," reported the Associated Press. Unfortunately, their commanders also stood with their mouths open.

What followed was one of the most amazing episodes of the war. The Allies, by swift action against a surprised enemy, could have moved inland even with a slender force to cut the Appian Way, a supply route vital to Nazi maintenance of the Gustav Line. If an army of sufficient size had been landed, a thrust northward toward Rome or southward against the German rear could have been made. Instead, the commanders elected to settle down on the beach to await developments. The Anzio-Nettuno beachhead was not to be a springboard for further activity; it was to be a waiting place where the Germans would be permitted to give battle at a time of their own choosing.

Excessive caution by the Allies gave the Germans ten days in which to bring up reinforcements. The Nazis, no doubt astounded and pleased by this unexpected display of courtesy, gathered their forces and at last descended on Anzio and Nettuno. For two weeks they battered at the Anglo-American troops, their attacks rising to a climax in mid-February. A lashing storm kept planes on the ground and nullified Allied air superiority so that the holders of the beachhead kept their position only by the hardest kind of hand-to-hand fighting. The veteran American Third Division added luster to its fine tradition by its courageous stand in the Anzio sector, and other British and American units won equal acclaim. Finally the weather cleared and Allied aerial and naval bombardments helped the infantry to beat off the German counterattack.

The post-war strategist of course has every advantage over the leaders directly concerned with a military operation, but the mistakes of the Anzio-Nettuno beachhead were so glaring that they should have been immediately apparent. The failure to exploit the initial advantage obtained by the surprise landings cannot easily be explained away. It may be granted that the number of men engaged was none too large, but effective use was not made of even the forces available. The official explanation, moreover, that this was an expedition for diversionary rather than attack purposes puts the whole project in a strange light in view of the knowledge then already at hand concerning the slow progress of Italian mountain battles. The plan, it was stated by those in command, was to draw the Nazi defenders back from their Gustav Line and then to hurl massed Allied strength against it, but the expectation of a sudden breakthrough in the German line seems a slender hope on which to base a gamble with the lives of a hundred thousand men. Either the Allied leaders should have been prepared to reinforce the assault troops and take full advantage of their achievements or the landing should not have been made at all.

Another needless waste of men occurred at Cassino, chosen as the point in the Gustav Line for the major attack to accompany the Anzio-Nettuno operation. Cassino, a bulwark of the western end of the German line, had been besieged by General Mark Clark's Fifth Army since December, 1943, and its capture would have exposed the enemy's right flank and would have compelled a withdrawal from the Gustav defenses. The Allies had expected to reduce the mountain citadel in two or three weeks and then to rush forward to join with the troops at the Anzio beachhead, but instead they blasted at the enemy stronghold for four months before a breakthrough in May finally came. Many costly attempts to storm Cassino were beaten off, but at last the Germans were forced to yield.

The Thirty-sixth Division opened the campaign in January, 1944, by making a night crossing of the Rapido River and striking at German positions before Cassino. The men of the Thirty-sixth fought for three days against an enemy that had only to wait behind well-prepared defenses on the hillsides and pour down a rain of shellfire. Then the ammunition of the Americans ran out, and they were forced to fall back across the river. Some swam; others formed human chains. So many dead and wounded were left behind by both sides that later a truce was arranged and Allied and Axis medical corpsmen alike swarmed over the battlefield to pick up the casualties. American losses totaled two thousand men killed, wounded, or missing.

Belatedly troops of the British Eighth Army were now transferred from their inactive sector on the Adriatic coast to take part in the battle for Cassino. With their aid other attacks were launched, some aimed at the summit of Monte Cassino on which rested the Sixth Century monastery of the Benedictine Order and others at the city lying in the lower valley. In mid-February, the air corps took over and rained destruction on both the abbey and the town, but months of bombing were necessary to make any appreciable dent in the strong German defenses. Nazi parachute forces were dropped on the monastery hill to reinforce the garrison there, and they helped make the caverns and tunnels under the ruined abbey a formidable fortress. Hills throughout the vicinity were stormed by American, New Zealand, and French troops, and New Zealanders of the Eighth Army and Americans of the Thirty-fourth Division fought their way into Cassino. Hill 165 changed hands six times. But Hill 516, the abbey hill, held out against all assaults.

During April the infantry rested while the Twelfth Air Force of General John K. Cannon went to work on Italy's railroads, and by the end of the month almost no Nazi supplies were being moved by rail south of Florence. Meanwhile reinforcements for the ground forces arrived; among other new units the American Eighty-fifth and Eighty-eighth Divisions took their places in the Allied lines. Then on May 11 the Fifth and Eighth Armies began again to hammer at the Nazis. General Sir Harold Alexander's order of the day offered his troops new hope: "From east and west, from north and south, blows are about to fall which will result in the final destruction of the Nazis and bring freedom once again to Europe. . . . To us in Italy has been given the honor to strike the first blow."

This time Cassino and the abbey's heights did not stand. Polish, French, American, Canadian, New Zealand, and English troops combined to capture those invincible points just six days after the new offensive began. With that the Gustav Line gave way, and the Germans were swept back toward Rome. On May 25 the Fifth Army made contact with the Allied defenders of the Anzio beachhead, four months behind schedule, and together they headed north. The Allied advance was so swift that the eastern and western sections of the German Army were almost split, and Marshal Kesselring had to flee north of Rome to reestablish contact between the two wings of his forces. The Nazis announced that they abandoned the Italian capital to save it from destruction, but the safety of the German Army of Italy was their paramount concern. On June 4, 1944, the long journey to Rome was ended when the Allies took over the Eternal City. The conquest of Mussolini's Fascist Italy was at last completed when Private John Vita climbed up on Il Duce's favorite balcony and delivered an impassioned address in Italian to an appreciative audience.

The Allies did not stop to celebrate but instead set out northward in pursuit of Kesselring. The Fifth Army pushed up the western coast while the Eighth Army made parallel gains on the eastern side of the peninsula. Together they converged on Florence, and after three weeks of street fighting that did irreparable damage to the city's artistic monuments, Florence was taken. By September 1, 1944, the Germans had succeeded in establishing themselves behind a new front, the "Gothic Line," stretching across the peninsula along the Arno River north of Florence. Between the Gustav Line and the Gothic Line, however, the Nazis had suffered sixty thousand casualties, including the loss of twenty thousand prisoners.

So at last in the weeks immediately preceding and following D-Day, the Italian campaign, for all the mistakes of commission and omission, paid appreciable dividends. It had been a heartbreaking struggle as Martha Gellhorn, writing for *Collier's* for October 28, 1944, makes clear: "Historians will think about this campaign far better than we can who have seen it. The historians will note that in the first year of the Italian campaign, in 365 days of fighting, the Allied armies advanced 315 miles. They will note this with admiration because it is the first time in history that any armies have invaded Italy from the south and fought up the endless mountain ranges toward the Alps. Historians will be able to explain with authority what it meant to break three fortified lines attacking up mountains, and the historians will also describe how Italy became a giant mine field and that no weapon is uglier, for it waits in silence, and it can kill any day, not only on the day of battle."

Some of the men who fought in Italy, however, were unwilling to await the verdict of history. The men of the Thirty-sixth Division who had made the bloody Rapido crossing and had waged the losing battle against hopeless odds had no intention of waiting. They could not forget how General Mark Clark had ordered the advance

over the protests of their divisional commander, General Fred Walker, who had warned his superior that enemy hillside fortifications made such a project suicidal. The losses sustained had borne out Walker, and the survivors of the terrible three days at the Rapido blamed those casualties on one man—Mark Clark. At the close of the war they kept a promise made in Italy. They held a reunion of their division in January, 1946, at Brownwood, Texas, and translated their hatred for General Clark into a demand for a Congressional investigation of his "colossal blunder"; they asked that Congress "take the necessary steps to correct a military system that will permit an inefficient and inexperienced officer, such as General Mark W. Clark . . . to destroy the young manhood of this country."

More to the point perhaps would have been a request for an inquiry into the Allied leadership's treatment of Italy as a second hand front. Then it might be revealed what part the diverting of men and equipment and top-flight generals to England in preparation for D-Day played in forcing the commanders left on the Italian front to take unusual chances with the men and materials on hand. Their original policy of caution provoked the criticism that they were afflicted with a case of George B. McClellan's "slows," and a more vigorous policy brought forth equal condemnation. Vigor without recklessness was difficult to maintain under the circumstances. Clearly it was a balance that Clark failed to achieve.

Yet the Italian campaign was no failure. Charges that the invasion of Italy was a misguided venture were without foundation No proof exists that a southern invasion elsewhere would have produced better results. Heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy there, and the hundred thousand Nazis that continued to fight could not be in Normandy and in Italy at the same time. President Roosevelt had commented on the occasion of the fall of Rome: "The first of the Axis capitals is now in our hands. One up and two to go." He could have added that the road to the next capital. Berlin, was smoothed by the men who had forced open the road to Rome.

Prior to D-Day, the Allies had three active fronts on the continent of Europe. The Italian and Russian fronts were great affairs, engaging men by the hundreds of thousands and by the millions. The third field of operations, conducted by underground irregulars and guerrillas in the Nazi-occupied nations, involved fewer men, but the unrelenting struggle carried on by the still unconquered French, Danes, Dutch, Belgians, Norwegians, Poles, Czechs, Greeks, and Yugoslavs was severely damaging to Hitler's plan of conquest. No amount of ruthless suppression could kill their patriotic spirit of resistance. Again the Fuehrer was being confronted with an unlearned lesson of history; again a more careful reading of a biography of Napoleon could have taught him how strong is the will of nationalism to live.

One of the most powerful of the resistance groups was organized in Yugoslavia. There the Serbs under General Draja Mihailovitch and the Croats under Marshal Tito daily came down from their mountain hiding-places to harass the Nazi invaders. Had the two Yugoslav leaders not disliked each other almost as much as they hated the Nazis, they could have doubled their strength; but contradictory ambitions kept them apart. In time Marshal Tito, who made that assumed name better known than his own Josip Broz, eclipsed Mihailovitch, and many of the Serbs joined with Tito's "Partisans." By the opening of 1944 Tito had organized more than 250,000 men and women into twenty-six divisions.

Their fierce struggle against the Nazis made Yugoslavia one of Hitler's major fronts. Demolition squads kept steadily at work blowing up German ammunition dumps, oil tanks, and food stores. Bands of guerrillas disrupted rail service by cutting lines and slowed down highway traffic with roadblocks. Thousands of Partisans, with tons of supplies furnished by the Allies, met the Nazis in pitched battles. The total value of the guerrillas to the Allied cause was indicated by *Time* for January 3, 1944: "Yugoslavia's Marshal Tito and his ragged, resolute Liberation Army engaged more Germans (at least 14 divisions) than the British and Americans together engaged in Italy. . ."

Not in Yugoslavia alone did the patriotic irregulars prove their worth. Poland too had a large underground army numbering nearly 300,000 men, an army that kept to the forests and occasionally gave battle to Nazi battalions. Polish resistance groups staged such a successful campaign to disrupt German railway transportation by sabotage that the Nazis were compelled to police every mile of track in Poland. Assassinations of German officials were common occurrences. As many as 140 secretly printed newspapers kept hope alive by publishing news of German defeats and Allied successes. And try as they might, the Germans could not root out the underground. "The world press," wrote Xavier Pruszynski in *Poland Fights Back*, "is full of reports about horrible massacres, executions and deportations which follow each other relentlessly. The world hears less about the stubborn resistance which is largely responsible for many of the brutal reprisals. . . . Just as the German terror is reaching in Poland a height of ferocity unknown in other countries, so the underground resistance and struggle of the Polish nation has an intensity unique in Europe."

In Norway, Holland, Belgium, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, and Greece, smaller invisible armies carried on a ceaseless campaign of systematic sabotage. Thousands from those lands made their way to England to be trained for military service, while other thousands stayed on the Continent to drive thorns in the German side. They daily posted signs on any anti-Nazi subject, and the letter—"V"—for Allied "Victory"—appeared everywhere. They derailed trains, bombed bridges and dams, burned storage tanks and warehouses, blew up factories and radio stations, distributed illegal newspapers. The most famous of the underground newspapers was the oldest, *La Libre Belgique*, which had first been printed during the German occupation of Belgium during the First World War. "Volume One, New War Series" made its appearance on August 15, 1940, and thereafter it was regularly handed out to Belgian patriots. Apoplectic Nazi governors were given free subscriptions and continued to receive the paper despite all their efforts to ferret out the editors.

In France the organized resistance movement put to shame the collaborationist activities of the Vichy government. Through the vigilance of the underground, the Nazis were never able to put to full use the French factories they had requisitioned; fires, abrasives, and uncooperative workers constantly held back production. The well-managed underground army of France was two hundred thousand strong, with capable officers and plenty of war material. Tons of munitions had been hidden away at the time of the Nazi occupation, and with those arms the patriots made a formidable force. When the Americans and the British landed on D-Day, the silent armies of France were waiting to join them. De Gaulle spoke for the patriots: "France, overwhelmed . . . but never conquered, is on her feet to take part. . . . The simple, sacred duty is to fight." It was as De Gaulle said; some Quislings and Petains and Lavals groveled, but most of occupied Europe kept to its feet—and fought.

None of the successes won on the fighting fronts, with the possible exception of the Russian victories, helped hasten the arrival of D-Day more than those scored by the air forces of the United Nations. The main burden of the aerial attack against Germany fell upon the Royal Air Force and the American Eighth Air Force based in England. The British bombed by night and the Americans by day with the result that the Germans in time had to suffer "round-the-clock" raids. Together the two Allies mounted an offensive that supplemented the campaigns in Russia and Italy by serving as a substitute for a second front while preparations for an invasion of Western France were being perfected.

In the early years of the war, pointless arguments were engaged in respecting the relative merits of British night-bombing and American daylight raids. The RAF commanders advocated the saturation theory of aerial bombardment where attempts were made to wipe out whole cities, and that form of attack could be made as effectively at night as in the daytime. The American leaders, however, adhered to the theory of strategic bombing, directing their blows at the essential war production of the enemy; for these precision attacks daylight was needed. Actually the two concepts of the use of airpower complemented one another, a fact that came to be understood on all sides before the close of the war.

The British had been compelled to adopt their policy of night bombing by the heavy losses sustained by their small air force during daylight raids in the early months of the war. The Americans, however, felt that the Boeing Flying Fortress, bristling with defensive armament, would be able to overpower German fighter resistance. On occasion it appeared that the British were correct in deciding that daytime losses would be prohibitive; one Eighth Air Force raid on Bremen in April, 1943, cost 16 Fortresses and 144 crew members and a greater one on Schweinfurt in October, 1943, cost 60 four-engined bombers and 593 airmen. The Americans came back, however, with more bombers and with long-range fighters, and engaged the enemy in a slugging match for supremacy. According to General Carl Spaatz, who commanded the American Strategic Air Forces in Europe, the Allies had gained control of the air over Germany by February, 1944.

In midyear of 1943, the conviction was widespread that Germany could be bombed out of the war. Air Marshal Air Arthur T. Harris, head of the RAF Bomber Command, and General Ira C. Eaker, chief of the United States Eighth Air Force, both felt that the Germans could be brought to their knees provided the English and American bombers were permitted to concentrate on that one objective instead of being assigned other tasks in support of ground operations. The experiment was never given a full trial although some support to the idea was granted when the Allied leaders allocated a large number of planes to Harris and Eaker for a limited test of the project.

In the bombing of Germany, the British RAF necessarily took the lead over the comparatively new Eighth Air Force. Where the Americans made their first raid on Germany on January 27, 1943, the British had by May, 1943, dropped one hundred thousand tons of bombs on German cities. "In 1939," Air Chief Harris commented to his men, "Goering promised that not a single enemy bomb would reach the Ruhr. Congratulations on having delivered one hundred thousand tons on Germany to refute him. The next one hundred thousand, if he waits for them, will be even bigger

and better bombs, delivered even more accurately and in much shorter time." During February, March, April, and May of 1943, British airmen blasted Germany with at least ten thousand tons of explosives each month. By the close of the year they had dropped over 150,000 tons, three times their total for 1942. Thirty German cities had suffered forty-eight RAF raids of five hundred tons or more. The Air Ministry announced in December, 1943, that seventeen major cities had become liabilities to the German war machine and that in Hamburg, Dusseldorf, and Cologne "civilized life . . . is no longer possible."

During the last week in July, 1943, the Eighth Air Force and the RAF combined to sear Hamburg, Germany's second city, with 10,000 tons of bombs. Seven night raids and two daylight attacks left Hamburg in ruins so complete that 400,000 were made homeless. No effort was made by the Nazis to disguise the devastation; instead their radio propaganda line took a new turn: "Terror! Terror! Terror! Pure, naked bloody terror! Go through the steets of the town which are covered with glass and debris. Set your teeth and do not forget who it was that brought you such misery! Let hatred glow in your hearts! Walk through the streets of Hamburg and from the smouldering ruins of houses see for yourselves at whom bombs and phosphorus were aimed. Forgiveness and conciliation are no longer possible here. The suffering of our heavily tried population has become a sacred vow of hatred." An official Nazi newspaper admitted: "The whole Reich and the largest cities are within reach of enemy planes. Nobody underestimates the imminence of danger."

A much smaller raid but one of strategic importance equal to the mass attacks on the cities was made by the British on May 16, 1943. Nineteen four-motored Lancaster bombers on that night were flown to the Ruhr Valley on a carefully-timed and long-planned mission. Bombs were loosed on two great dams that held back the Eder and Ruhr rivers. The streams were at flood stage, and the raging torrent that burst through the dams inundated a large section of Germany's most important industrial area. Railway communications, telephone lines, power stations, and factory towns were swept up by the flood. It was one of the most profitable single raids of the war.

Since the Eighth Air Force had only one-fifth as many planes to spare for Northern Europe as did the RAF, the Americans during 1943 were outdistanced by their Allies in tonnage of bombs dropped on German targets. Yet the figures for the bombings by the Eighth Air Force grew larger as the year wore on: 547 tons delivered to Germany in January, 1943; 1,666 tons in March; 2,865 tons in May; 3,600 tons in July; 8,190 tons in September; and 12,000 tons in December. Altogether in 64,000 offensive sorties during the year, the Americans hit Germany with 50,000 tons of explosives and knocked down 4,100 Nazi planes. The costs had come high, however; the price was nearly 1,000 heavy bombers.

While the Eighth Air Force made some strikes of considerable size during 1943, as, for example, those on Regensburg and Schweinfurt in August, not until 1944 did American airmen open up with their great raids. On January 7, they hit Ludwigshafen with 1,000 tons, and on January 29 they pounded Frankfurt with 2,000 tons. Then on February 20, General Spaatz unleashed the full fury of his tremendous bomber command, and the Eighth Air Force, by that time grown mighty under the leadership of General Doolittle, drove home blows that wrecked Germany's industry and destroyed for all effective purposes the German *Luftwaffe*. Six days of nearly perfect flying weather were used by more than 2,000 bombers and fighters to batter Leipzig, Oschersleben, Gotha, Bernburg, Brunswick, Halberstadt, Tutow, Posen, Stuttgart—any place there were aircraft factories and assembly plants. The airmen of the Eighth Air Force dropped in those six days a greater weight of bombs than they had delivered to Germany in the first year of their operations in Europe.

Allied airmen have come to refer to that as the "Big Week." It was the week in which American and British bombardiers dropped 18,000 tons on 15 Nazi aircraft centers. It was the week in which 644 German planes were shot down. "This sustained attack . . . fatally reduced the capabilities of the *Luftwaffe*," General Spaatz wrote in *Foreign Affairs* for April, 1946. "German aircraft production recovered; but the Allies retained control of the air throughout the remaining 14 months of hostilities."

The size and fury of the air battles of the "Big Week" are indicated by the number of plane losses, 387 bombers and 37 fighters for the Allies as against the 644 Nazi planes destroyed Throughout the following month the struggle for air supremacy inaugurated by the Allied mass attacks of February 20 continued. During the second week 123 Nazi fighters and 68 American bombers and 11 fighters were knocked out of the air over Berlin. The week following, the score was 301 Nazi planes to 106 American bombers and 26 fighters in a single mid-day battle over the German capital. The fourth week was bitterly contested; while the Allies were dropping 20,000 tons of bombs on Nazi targets, the rival air forces engaged in battles that cost the Germans 440 planes to 195 for the Allies.

After that the *Luftwaffe* virtually gave up. Time after time Allied bombers made their runs without seeing a single enemy fighter. The devastation of Berlin was completed almost without contest, 2,000,000 of its people being left homeless and three fourths of its area battered to ruins. The Nazis did not entirely concede the air to the Allies, for occasionally they would lash back; but the long intervals between the German attacks demonstrated the *Luftwaffe's* problem of replacements. Therein lay the difference between the opposing forces; the Allies could replace losses without delay, while the Germans now had reason to fear that replacements might never be found. Nevertheless, Allied Intelligence reported that there were still 5,000 planes in the *Luftwaffe*, with half of them ready for use in France.

While the Eighth Air Force was the largest of the United States Air Forces in Europe, it was by no means the only one. The Ninth, based in the Middle East and later in England, and the Twelfth and Fifteenth, based in Italy, also played important parts in the destruction of Germany's capacity to make war. The powerful Fifteenth Air Force made regular runs to Vienna and winged out over the Balkans, striking heavy political blows there with every bomb dropped. One of the Ninth's most notable exploits was performed while it was still assigned to the Middle East; in August, 1943, the Liberators of the Ninth Air Force dropped down on the Ploesti oil fields of Rumania and destroyed wells, storage tanks, and refineries. Together all of these air commands brought havoc unlimited to the Axis. They flew, during the whole of the war, a total of 1,692,469 sorties over Germany and the rest of Hitler's Europe; they unloosed 1,550,022 tons of bombs in their raids; and they destroyed in the air and on the ground 29,916 enemy planes.

The importance to the Allied cause of the combined British and American air forces can hardly be overestimated. How much they contributed to the success of the Red Armies cannot be accurately calculated; but by compelling the *Luftwaffe* to shift from the Russian front, the Allies enabled the Russians to gain air superiority at a critical period in the German retreat. The part of Allied airmen in hastening D-Day is obvious. They forced the *Luftwaffe* out of the skies and thus cleared the path for the ships and men that made the landings. Ultimate victory depended on the troops that marched into Germany, but those who had flown there helped make that march possible.

While the Allied armies and air forces were softening the enemy, British and American troops were undergoing strenuous training for the great cross-Channel venture. Throughout the British Isles, parachute and glider forces practiced, assault troops staged miniature landings, ship crews studied mines and coastal blocks, sappers worked on land mine problems, infantrymen were toughened. These massive maneuvers, intended to secure coordination between ships, planes, tanks, and infantry, were repeated endlessly by commanders who sought perfection—and something to do while they waited.

Engineers reproduced on the English beaches near Plymouth and Dartmouth the defenses and fortifications used by the enemy on the French shore where the actual invasion was to take place. Beginning in September, 1943, thousands of men using hundreds of amphibious craft practiced storming the coast. Observers watched for mistakes and sought means of correction. New tactics and new weapons were given a thorough trial before being adopted. Each failure would bring changes, and the changes would then be tried out on the following day. Captain Harry C. Butcher, naval aide to General Eisenhower, records in his diary that only a month before D-Day the Allied commanders were still dissatisfied with the way the tests were going.

The most serious and elaborate rehearsal for D-Day, however, had been held at daybreak on August 18, 1942, when destroyers, transports, and launches of the British Navy crossed the Channel and landed some 5,000 men at the French port of Dieppe. The first attacks were made four miles to the east and five miles to the west of the Dieppe beach by English Commandos, troops especially trained to deliver swift, stealthy, death-dealing blows. The force that struck at the east was cut to pieces and had to pull out, but the western wing of Commandos succeeded in scrambling ashore and creating a satisfactory diversion.

When the Germans rushed men from Dieppe to cover those flank attacks, the main body of the raiders, Canadians under the command of General John H. Roberts, struck directly at the city. The Canadians cut their way through the barbed wire along the shore, and infantry and tanks pushed on into the city's streets. For hours they fought the Nazi defenders, destroying enemy supplies, seizing equipment, taking prisoners, gathering information

Since this was only a rehearsal and not an invasion, the raiders then had to withdraw. That was the most difficult part of the operation, and despite Allied air control casualties were high. Of the 5,000 Canadians engaged, 3,372 were subsequently listed as killed, wounded, or missing. The Germans had taken 1,900 prisoners.

For nine hours, British ships and men had encroached on Hitler's Fortress Europe. That fact in itself made the assault worthwhile, for Hitler thereafter held troops in France that he had planned to send to Russia. The Germans had less freedom of movement in any direction, for this was a warning that the Allies might strike in earnest at any time; the Nazis could not know that nearly two years were to elapse before the next blow would fall in that

quarter. The Germans for a while were badly rattled, and three months later they were far better prepared for an invasion of France than for the attacks that came in North Africa.

The lessons learned at Dieppe, moreover, were put to use in North Africa, in Sicily, and in Italy, long before they could be applied in the landings in Normandy. "The Dieppe raid must be considered a reconnaissance in force," Winston Churchill explained. "It was a hard, savage clash, such as is likely to become increasingly numerous as the war deepens. We had to get all the information necessary before landing operations on a much larger scale." It was a costly rehearsal but it was in part responsible for the development of an invasion strategy that was to save countless Allied lives.

Appointment of the staff that was to plan and lead the invasion of Normandy began two years before the finishing touches were put on the preparations. Not until December, 1943, however, was the commander in chief for the operation named. General Dwight Eisenhower had demonstrated in the North African and Italian campaigns such marked talents for organizing and directing a complex command that he was a logical choice as Supreme Commander of the Allied Expeditionary Force. Yet the Combined Chiefs of Staff of the United Nations assembled at Cairo in November, 1943, with the expectation of naming General George Marshall to the post, and only after considerable discussion was the switch to Eisenhower agreed upon.

Captain Harry Butcher made this entry in his diary showing the comments of Harry Hopkins on the decision: "Hopkins said he thought the President and others thought General Marshall had come rightly to regard his job as Chief of Staff as more important to the war effort. He could devote his superior qualifications to global warfare, with which he is now intimately familiar. He could deal with Congress. The decision in Ike's favor had been made after very careful consideration of all of the factors, with important weight given to the need of General Marshall's experience in dealing with Congress in his present job and of Ike's battle-front knowledge and success in this theater. Ike's personal appearance before the Combined Chiefs of Staff at Cairo and his demonstration of his grasp of the military situation had added to the good impression already held of him."

Butcher also makes it clear that some of the discussions at Cairo were concerned with the question of whether a head-on invasion of France was actually necessary. General Spaatz still argued that three months of continuous bombing after the weather had improved in April or May of 1944 would drive Germany out of the war. Harry Hopkins prior to the Cairo meeting felt that the British had grown lukewarm about the Channel jump and were ready to "wash out" on the subject, possibly in favor of Spaatz' bombing strategy or perhaps in favor of some new Mediterranean push. These policies Hopkins opposed. "Harry felt," wrote Butcher, "that the Russians' great drive would gain for the Soviets world-wide recognition as having licked Germany, leaving American and British interests at the peace table considerably submerged by the Russians." Whether the ultimate decision to spend thousands of lives in the invasion of Normandy stemmed from the desire to check Russia or Germany, Butcher fails to record.

Included in the personnel for Supreme Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Forces, popularly known as "SHAEF," were Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, Eisenhower's deputy commander; General Bernard Montgomery, field commander for British ground forces; General Omar Bradley, field commander for American ground forces; Air Chief Marshal Trafford L. Leigh-Mallory, commander of air forces for the expedition; Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay, naval commander, and General William B. Smith, chief of staff to General Eisenhower. Criticism of these appointments came both from the United States and England. Some Americans felt that the British had too much representation among the field commanders, especially in view of the fact that the bulk of the forces involved would be American. Many of the English, for their part, felt that the supreme command should have gone to a Britisher. "I consider that either General Montgomery or Alexander should have held that position," one English critic wrote to Eisenhower. "Remember we have been in this war for over four years. Twelve months we stood alone." On the whole, however, the appointments won general approval.

The problems of a supreme commander in planning and supervising an operation on the scale of the cross-Channel thrust at the Continent were multiplied many times over by the exigencies of political considerations and public relations. The feelings of the British and American press must not be ruffled. The attitude of Russia had to be kept in mind. The loss of French good will in the event certain targets in France should be bombed had to be weighed. The zeal of Congressmen in an election year had to be taken into account. Prime Minister Churchill and General De Gaulle were constant trials. All of these individual items General Eisenhower handled smoothly without creating animosity or losing prestige.

The Patton case was indicative of the troubles with which the Supreme Commander was beset. George S. Patton in Sicily had established himself as one of America's most successful generals. This brilliant and erratic officer seemed incapable of doing anything wrong on a battlefield or anything right elsewhere. He had been dubbed "Old Blood and Guts" and seemed determined to live up to the title, swaggering around the Mediterranean wearing two pearl-handled revolvers in the best motion-picture style. Just as he seemed destined to become one of the nation's great swashbuckling newspaper heroes, he committed the unpardonable blunder that nearly ended his career. During the action in Sicily, he paid a visit to a field hospital and there became incensed at a soldier who was suffering from malaria and battle fatigue. Since the soldier could show no visible wounds to the general, Patton took upon himself the privilege of diagnosis and cursed the man and accused him of being a malingerer and a coward. Then while the helpless soldier sat quivering, "Old Blood and Guts" slapped him, and because the man sobbed he struck him again.

That episode had occurred in August, 1943, while Eisenhower was serving as Allied commander for the Mediterranean, and it fell to his lot to decide upon the method by which Patton would be disciplined. The whole affair gave Eisenhower many hours of worry. He did not wish to lose the services of his best ground gainer, nor did he dare to turn his back upon public opinion. He finally reached the decision to retain Patton as a commanding general while the punishment was to consist of a stern letter of rebuke and an order to apologize publicly to the patients and staff of the evacuation hospital. Not until late November was the matter made public, and for a time it appeared that both Eisenhower and Patton were to suffer oblivion, Patton for his misconduct and Eisenhower for the mild rebuke and the long months of keeping the affair under cover. Neither the American people nor the press, however, cared for a court martial for Patton, and in time the clamor over the case died out.

The reasons for Eisenhower's decision can be readily understood, and one can sympathize with his desire to save the man that he felt to be the best offensive general of the Allies that the war had developed. Yet it is difficult to give approval to the method he chose as a way out of the dilemma. Patton, while a superb field officer, was scarcely indispensable, and his disgraceful performance called for punishment more severe than a reprimand. Had the enlisted man struck the general or cursed him under comparable circumstances the enlisted man would without question have been sentenced to long months of imprisonment by a court martial. The Articles of War are supposed to be just as compelling in their severity upon an officer as upon an enlisted man. Although Quentin Reynolds told Eisenhower at the time that 50,000 soldiers were ready to shoot Patton on sight, no one actually wanted Patton's head; but the slapping and vilifying of a soldier should have resulted in the degrading of the guilty general and his transfer to some other theater.

An attempt was made to excuse Patton's tantrum on the ground that he himself was suffering from battle shock. Yet the incident that was publicized was not unique in Patton's career, for investigation showed that there were other men he had cursed and cuffed and kicked. These facts Eisenhower knew when he elected to keep Patton at the head of the Seventh Army in Sicily and refused to allow the story to be released for publication until he could present the people with a *fait accompli* of several months' standing.

Within the American military establishment, the entire affair left a bad taste, and most enlisted men felt that the benign treatment of Patton emphasized the distinctions inherent in the Army's caste system. "There are lessons to be drawn from this deplorable affair which the High Command hereafter should enforce," the *Army and Navy Journal* declared. "The kind of democratic Army we have requires . . . discipline based upon mutual respect. . . . Officers, no matter what their rank, guilty of conduct undermining it, should be relieved instantly from their command."

Thus matters stood in the Patton case when Eisenhower was named Supreme Commander for the Allied Expeditionary Forces. As the Supreme Commander began to select his subordinates, a question arose concerning the post to be assigned to Patton. Almost any position given the gaudy general was bound to provoke opposition both in America and in England, yet Eisenhower braved public disapproval by designating Patton as commander of the American Third Army. Eisenhower's action in giving Patton that important command was consistent with the course he had taken in Sicily, and further criticism of the Supreme Commander was undeserved. Patton in his public utterances continued to be a source of embarrassment to Eisenhower until after D-Day, but when Patton subsequently swept through France and Germany with the Third Army, the Supreme Commander felt that he was repaid for his trouble.

Patton's achievements on the Continent came to be accepted in America as sufficient justification of Eisenhower's covering up for Patton in Sicily. Some military analysts have demurred, contending that Patton had the advantage of a favorable press that found it easy to capitalize on the reader's interest in "Old Blood and Guts" and consequently to play him up at the expense of a more able general, Omar Bradley. Certain it is that a great deal of study will have to be made of World War II to determine in the case of Patton and other leaders how much their reputations

for great generalship depended on the skilled publicity agents attached to every commander under the title of Public Relations Officer. Yet no amount of success could excuse Patton's hysterical outburst. Perhaps history will come to look upon the face-slapping incident as an unimportant episode in Patton's colorful and useful career; yet it is more likely that the future historian will have to detail the affair as responsible for the adoption of a regrettably misguided policy by General Eisenhower.

Otherwise the Supreme Commander made few mistakes. Shortly after D-Day, Hanson W. Baldwin, one of the war's great reporters, gave in *Foreign Affairs* for October, 1944, this considered estimate of Eisenhower: "The clue to the victory, then, is to be found partly in the months of struggle on the seas and in the skies before the invasion proper began. It also is to be found in the careful planning during that period, and in the wise and skillful leadership of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who fashioned out of 'SHAEF' . . . a cumbrous but on the whole smooth-working instrument of Anglo-American cooperation. General Eisenhower's friendly but dynamic personality is the key to the success of SHAEF; perhaps no one else but 'Ike' could so rapidly have welded together such a diffuse and often clashing group of personalities and nationalities."

When Eisenhower first arrived in England to take charge of the Supreme Headquarters, he reviewed the plans already made and decided that they called for an attack on a scale too small to be successful. He directed that five divisions instead of three be used in the initial landings, and he insisted that the area of the assault be widened. These changes caused a postponement of D-Day and considerable additional work by engineers, draftsmen, and supply agencies, but the wisdom of the new strategy was demonstrated when the invasion finally came.

D-Day would not have been possible had not American industry and agriculture continued in 1944 their great achievements in the Battle of Production. The farmers of the United States harvested the biggest crop in the nation's history with the smallest number of farm workers on record. The output of American industry shrank slightly over the peak year of 1943 because of the steps taken toward reconversion to peace-time manufacture. Yet the miracles wrought by industry's performance between 1941 and the close of 1944 are indicated by the statistical tables: a gigantic new synthetic rubber industry established; aluminum production increased from 807,000,000 pounds to 2,179,000,000 pounds; plane output multiplied ten times, tank production five times, naval shipping five times, and cargo shipping ten times; the machine tool industry expanded 700 per cent. Gains in other manufactured products were comparable to those named. Meanwhile the Battle of the Atlantic turned completely in favor of the Allies in the summer of 1943, and thereafter, with the submarine menace removed, most of the shipments of goods reached their destination.

C. Lester Walker, writing for *Harper's* for March, 1945, has written the best account to date of the herculean labors expended in getting under way what "was beyond doubt the most gigantic as well as the most extraordinary complex single operation two nations have ever undertaken." A planning staff of 6,000 worked out the details that brought together the necessary men and equipment and ships and supplies. The United States Army brought over a million men into the United Kingdom for the occasion. American engineers constructed 100,000 buildings for housing and storage purposes. More than 1,000,000 different items were in the 18,000,000 ship tons of cargo unloaded in British ports to supply the expedition's needs. Thousands of miles of concrete runways were built for the world's greatest air force. Six hundred different types of landing and escort craft were designed and built for the assault forces. "This invasion has got to be planned *big*," Eisenhower had said. It was.

War materials of all kinds were assembled: tanks and trucks and jeeps, howitzers and mortars and heavy field pieces, bazookas, and machine guns and rifles, bulldozers and concrete mixers and air compressors, bombs and shells and cartridges, cranes and wheelbarrows and telephone poles, tires and motors and spare parts, food and drink and medicine. These vast stores were stocked ceiling-high in every available building, and millions of crates and vehicles were left to line mile after mile of country lanes throughout England. The amounts required of certain items reached fantastic totals: two and a half million miles of telephone wire, 90,000 parachutes for dropping supplies, 500,000,000 burlap sand bags. In March of 1944 the story was circulated that if materials kept coming to England, the island would sink in the ocean. "Just cut the barrage balloons," it was said, "and she'll go down six inches." So many things were piled about that at first many items were lost track of and had to be reordered, but such mistakes were corrected by the arrangement of a systematic catalogue of equipment.

On May 7, less than a month before D-Day, the board of strategy of SHAEF put the Services of Supply on their mettle by a change in tactics affecting the airborne divisions. Under the new plan they were to land in Normandy, stay four days and then pull out to return to England; there they would get fresh equipment for a jump into Holland. This meant that 327,272 additional items from flame-throwers to stop-watches, had to be gathered together in America and rushed to England. All the articles required were in England before the deadline.

The Medical Corps devised a method of handling casualties that further taxed the supply system. Among the requirements were 800,000 units of blood plasma, 600,000 doses of penicillin, and 10,000 pounds of sulfa drugs. The evacuation of the wounded was so arranged that the casualties could be shipped immediately to hospitals that could give them the best treatment. Each hospital in England was to keep the Surgeon General informed of the number of vacant beds available so that there would be no confusion in the handling of the injured. Meanwhile portable hospitals that could be set up on the beaches were prepared so that immediate first aid could be administered and even major operations performed.

For the landings the engineers made no less than 125,000,000 maps. Their tide maps were so accurate that the exact water level of any French beach for any minute of the day could be ascertained from them. Even the underwater barriers were plotted on the maps. All of this was useful information for ship captains and the coxswains of landing craft in getting the troops close to the shore, and it was equally vital to the planning board in training the soldiers to wade the remaining distance with as little delay as possible. The mistakes made in some of the island invasions in the Pacific were not repeated in Normandy.

To the Transportation Corps fell the prodigious task of handling the flow of goods within England. Schedules for the use of port facilities by cargo vessels were drawn up and rigidly followed. Railroad equipment, including 3,000 locomotives and 57,000 freight cars, and the necessary operating personnel were brought from America to move the war materials from the harbors to the storage depots scattered over England. Then at the appointed time the men and the equipment were transferred to the ports of embarkation.

At last the loading of the troops and the supplies began. All roads leading to the docks were carefully policed lest traffic jams upset the time schedule. Every jeep was moved to a prearranged spot on shipboard. Each man took an assigned place as member of a team. The final aerial bombardment of the Norman beaches rose to a crescendo. D-Day was at hand.

CHAPTER XIII

Fortress Europe Falls

The D-Day landings had been so long in preparation and such a great number of men had participated in the planning stage that complete surprise was impossible to achieve. On occasion the security of the operation was threatened as a military or naval officer offered to make bets on the invasion date. Once a wool-gathering enlisted man attached to SHAEF addressed a packet of important papers to his sister in Chicago instead of to the War Department in Washington, an error that was caught in time to prevent harm. Again a babbling major-general grew talkative at a cocktail party and let out confidential information, a slip that cost him his stars and caused him to be sent back to the United States in disgrace. Yet the enemy never succeeded in obtaining facts or dates that could be used to advantage. As Prime Minister Churchill later stated: "It is rather remarkable that a secret of this character, which had to be entrusted from the beginning, to scores, very soon to hundreds and ultimately to thousands of people, never leaked out either in these Islands or the wide expanses of the United States."

No detail was overlooked that might help confuse the enemy as to the point of attack. Aerial and naval bombardments were directed at areas up and down Europe's coasts prior to D-Day in order that the Germans would not be able to figure out the actual landing place. Planes were sent over neutral countries distant from Normandy so that the resultant newspaper headlines would create apprehension in Nazi ranks. On the eve of invasion, Allied leaders even took a leaf from the book of the cloak and dagger school of fiction writers by sending a double for General Montgomery by plane to Gibraltar, where he could be observed and duly reported to Berlin by Spanish friends of the Axis. Then on D-Day, although no real diversionary strikes were attempted, Allied forces sought to bring about further confusion by making a pretense of heading toward Calais, the Low Countries, and Norway.

All of those Allied feints helped to add to the German High

Command's conviction that a series of landings would be made on several European beaches. Nevertheless, the Nazis had good reason to believe that the hardest blows would be struck somewhere near the British Isles, for military urgency would dictate that the invasion take place near the supply bases in England. The exact spot on the Channel coast that the Allies would pick, however, the Germans could not foretell, and no advance concentration of troops was possible under the circumstances. Even after the operation began in Normandy the Nazi commanders were wary about rushing troops to that sector for fear of attacks elsewhere.

The Germans had many opportunities for miscalculations concerning the Allied strategy, and their percentage of error was surprisingly high. They were slow to realize that only one landing was included in the plan for the northern invasion. They failed to guess the time and place of attack. They bungled badly in their preparations for resistance. Hanson W. Baldwin, in the October, 1944, issue of *Foreign Affairs*, put much of the blame on the Nazi commander in France: "Marshal von Rundstedt . . . had had two years to strengthen the defenses of the French coast, and yet until Marshal Erwin Rommel's inspection in the winter of 1943-44 many obvious measures of defense were not taken. At the time of the invasion, the beach and coast defenses had been considerably improved since the winter, and troops had been shifted to the Normandy region. Fortifications were still in progress; in one 500-yard strip of beach this correspondent saw three heavy reinforced concrete casements still under construction, and in numerous pastures 'Rommel's asparagus'—heavy wooden posts up-ended in the earth to prevent airborne landings—were in course of installation."

The date of D-Day would have been difficult for Marshal von Rundstedt to predict since General Eisenhower himself was undecided. The Allied commander had been advised by the weather experts that past records indicated that the two most likely periods during June for favorable weather would be from June 5 to June 8 and from June 19 to June 22. Acting on that information, Eisenhower had fixed upon June 5 as the day for launching the invasion. Accordingly all the ships and troops were ready at the appointed time, but heavy seas and overcast skies prompted the Supreme Commander to order a postponement of 24 hours. It was a nerve-racking wait for the men aboard ship, and General Eisenhower was fully aware of the harmful effects that prolonged delay could bring. At an Allied conference, therefore, he pointed out that reasons of morale and security made it imperative that the attack begin on the following day.

The decision was not an easy one. The forecasters gave no promise of improved weather conditions for June 6. In response to an inquiry about the possibility of a change, the conscientious weatherman replied: "To answer that question would make me a guesser, not a meteorologist." Eisenhower then had to act as chief guesser and had decided that the gamble should be made immediately rather than risk a postponement of two weeks. The great storm that swept the French coast from June 19 to 22, the second period of predicted calm, made it appear that Fate had approved the choice of June 6 for D-Day.

The weather at the hour of invasion was unfavorable to aerial operations and the Channel was choppy, but both the air and naval forces rose to the occasion and performed their assigned tasks almost on schedule. The time chosen for the landings caught the Germans by surprise, for the first assaults began four hours before the high tide that had always been deemed essential. Minesweepers were able to feel their way to the shore better at low tide, and ship crews were better able to see and avoid the obstacles planted in the water by the Germans.

Captain Harry Butcher reports that Nazi officers captured after D-Day admitted that the day and hour selected for the offensive were totally unexpected. The Germans had assumed that the exposure of the underwater barriers at low tide would forestall an attack at such an hour. Moreover a captive German meteorologist told that he had advised his superiors that invasion for several days after June 4 would be impractical because of bad weather. That forecast had led to the granting of short leaves to German officers who were, therefore, absent from their divisions on D-Day. One advantage enjoyed by the Allies on June 6, it is clear, was that the enemy was not on the alert against attack.

The armada that made the Channel crossing was larger than any other previously assembled, but not all of the superlatives used in describing it are justified. The flotilla of 4,000 ships exceeded by only 750 the number of vessels employed in the invasion of Sicily, an increase scarcely commensurate with the greater dangers involved. The 800 fighting craft on hand for D-Day, moreover, scarcely equalled in power the fleet used the previous February in taking Kwajalein in the Marshalls. Fifteen battleships had been at Kwajalein while only 12 ranged the invasion coast of Normandy, and three American battleships that took part in the Norman operations were among the oldest in the United States Navy, the *Arkansas*, the *Texas* and the *Nevada*.

The naval strength, of course, was entirely adequate, for the plan of attack called for most of the explosives that hit the French coast to be delivered by the air forces. The aerial might the Allies unleashed on D-Day was unparalleled. Three thousand planes took the airborne divisions across to France, and over 8,000 planes of the RAF and the Eighth Air Force provided an horizon-wide umbrella to cover the navies and the ground troops as they approached the alien shore. The Allied fighters kept all enemy planes grounded, and the bombers pounded installations in the landing areas to bits. On invasion eve, 7,500 tons of bombs were dropped on the 10 key German defense batteries; and 30 minutes before H-Hour, 1,350 heavy bombers blanketed the beaches with 530 tons of explosives for every brigade front of 2,300 yards.

Once the beachheads had been established, the Navy's next great task was to land supplies and equipment in quantities sufficient to keep the armies moving inland. Knowing that the dock facilities of a large port city could not be made readily available, Allied engineers had worked out in advance a scheme for constructing prefabricated harbors that could be hurriedly put together on the French shore. For the first few days breakwaters formed by scuttling 60 out-dated ships were the only protection for the supply vessels and transports as they unloaded their cargoes. Meanwhile tugs were busy towing the steel and concrete sections into position. Great caissons and piers weighing thousands of tons were brought over and sunk, and on these foundations were placed monstrous quays. Within two weeks two harbors with pierings as long as those at Dover were set up; and just as it appeared that the problem had been solved, a storm destroyed one of the giant installations. Thereafter, the one artificial anchorage had to suffice until Cherbourg fell to the Allies.

Despite the prevailing June gales that slowed down Channel shipping, vast amounts of materials were landed. By June 17, the British and Americans had put ashore, in addition to 589,653 men, a total of 89,828 vehicles and 200,000 tons of supplies. The loss of one of the artificial harbors had caused the vehicle landings to drop 50,000 behind schedule by July 2, but after Cherbourg was made serviceable that shortage was overcome. On August 12 the first of the cross-Channel pipe lines to provide fuel for these vehicles was completed. In October, the announcement was made that the pre-fabricated ports had helped the Allies in the first three months after D-Day to perform titanic feats of supply; the 2,500,000 troops, the 500,000 vehicles, and the 17,000,000 ship tons of munitions and materials in France were visible evidences of the miracles wrought.

Those were the agencies and their prodigious efforts that supported the men who landed in France on June 6, 1944. General Eisenhower's order of the day was his final word to the assault troops: "You are about to embark on a great crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere go with you. In company with our brave allies and brothers in arms on other fronts you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world." General Montgomery, conscious of the gamble involved, quoted Lord Montrose:

"He either fears his fate too much,
Or his deserts are small,
That dares not put it to the touch
To gain or lose it all."

President Roosevelt prayed: "Almighty God: Our sons, pride of our nation, this day have set upon a mighty endeavor, a struggle to preserve our Republic, our religion and our civilization, and to set free a suffering humanity. Lead them straight and true; give strength to their arms, stoutness to their hearts, steadfastness in their faith. They will need Thy blessings. Their road will be long and hard. For the enemy is strong. He may hurl back our forces. Success may not come with rushing speed, but we shall return again and again!; and we know that by Thy grace, and by the righteousness of our cause, our sons will triumph."

The invasion of Normandy started shortly after midnight on June 6 when parachute and glider troops of three Allied divisions, including the American 82nd and 101st Airborne, began dropping at the base of the Cotentin Peninsula on which Cherbourg rests. The mission of these divisions was to draw German troops away from the beaches so that the seaborne forces would face fewer Nazis in the first phases of the naval assault. This hazardous night operation was successful, but the losses of airborne personnel, especially of glider troops, ran high. Some of the gliders cracked up on "Rommel's asparagus" or other obstacles, and their crews were killed or captured. Yet on the whole the casualties were lighter than had been expected, and the airborne losses were more than offset by the confusion that the parachute troops threw into the enemy's ranks.

At 6:30 in the morning of June 6, the troops began wading ashore from their landing craft. The British Second Army landed near Caen, while the Americans struck at two points near the mouth of the Vire River. The eastern point of the American attack was labeled "Omaha Beach" and the western "Utah Beach." Light opposition was encountered by the Fourth Division at Utah

Beach, but Omaha Beach, dominated by cliffs a hundred feet high, was strongly defended. Again the First Division drew the difficult assignment of routing a well-entrenched enemy, and Omaha Beach fell as other Nazi strongholds had to the First's determined advance. The Twenty-Ninth Division shared the responsibilities and honors with the First. By June 12 the British and American beachhead forces had joined, giving the Allies control of a stretch of the Norman coast 80 miles long. Premier Stalin, at last presented with a second front, sent his congratulations: "The history of wars does not know any such undertaking so broad in conception, and so grandiose in its scale and so masterly in execution."

With 16 divisions by that time in France, the Allies next could turn to clearing the Germans out of the Cotentin Peninsula. While the British at Caen fought off any Nazi attempt at reinforcement of the beleaguered area, the American Ninth Division severed the peninsula with a quick thrust and headed north toward Cherbourg. The Fourth and the Seventy-ninth Divisions joined the Ninth in the fight for the great port city, and on June 27 the defenders were compelled to surrender. In praising this whirlwind campaign, the London *Express* gave voice to its unstinted admiration: "Americans have proved themselves to be a race of great fighters in the very front rank of men at arms."

Cherbourg was the first major Allied objective after D-Day. The capture of this, one of Europe's best seaports, gave the Allies assurance of a distribution center for supplies from Britain and America. German demolition squads, however, had wrecked the harbor facilities at Cherbourg just as they had at Naples, and with greater effect. Engineers put the harbor back in working order, but it was the last of August before full use of the port could be made. Yet this delay did not nullify the effect of the fall of Cherbourg; its capture meant that the Allied position in Northern Europe was no longer in danger. The beachheads had been developed into a second front.

From the outset, the Allied commanders were relieved to find the cost of the invasion in casualties was unexpectedly low, Before D-Day spokesmen had made gloomy predictions, estimates of the losses running into the hundreds of thousands. Thousands of men died in storming the Normandy beaches but not nearly as many as had been feared. The figures given out for casualties to July 20 included, for the United States, 11,026 killed, 52,669 wounded, 5,831 missing; for Britain, 5,646 killed, 27,766 wounded, 6,182 missing; for Canada, 919 killed, 4,454 wounded, 1,272 missing.

The failure of the two Nazi commanders in France, Rundstedt and Rommel, to launch a counteroffensive in those first weeks of the invasion was one of the surprising developments of the campaign. In numbers of men and in amounts of equipment, the Germans were clearly superior to the Allies for several months after D-Day. Only a month before the Anglo-American landings, General Eisenhower's chief of staff, General Walter B. Smith, in private conversation with Captain Harry Butcher, expressed the opinion that the Germans had an even chance of throwing the invaders back into the Channel. Yet to the relief of the Allied High Command no strong Nazi counterattack came until it was too late. In one respect only were the Germans outnumbered in France, and that may have been the factor that determined them to exercise caution. The *Luftwaffe* was no match for the Allied air forces, and the constant pounding of German bridges, roads, and supply lines unquestionably helped the Nazis to reach their decision to avoid an offensive.

The principal retaliatory move by the Germans was their renewal of the air blitz on England on June 12 with a new type of attack with a pilotless jet-propelled plane carrying a heavy explosive. This was the Nazis' long-anticipated secret weapon, the V-1—the *Vergeltungswaffe* or "Vengeance Weapon." These robot bombs were scarcely secret since British Intelligence had spotted them in reconnaissance photographs and had for more than a year worked on a plan of defense. The RAF had devoted a great deal of attention during that year to bombing the launching sites, and a range finder to direct anti-aircraft fire against the speedy robots was developed.

When the attacks finally came, however, a hundred of the flying bombs were sent against England each day, and no amount of defensive effort could ward off all of them. The destruction wrought in London and the south of England almost equalled the devastation of the worst days of the earlier Battle of Britain. At the end of the first six weeks of the use of the new weapon, Winston Churchill announced that 4,735 had been killed, 14,000 had been seriously injured, and 17,000 homes had been destroyed. The casualties continued to mount in the months that followed; by the close of August more than 1,104,000 homes had been razed and the monthly death total among civilians had risen above 1,100.

Then in September the Nazis unveiled another terror weapon, the V-2. The V-2 was a flying rocket which traveled through the stratosphere and hurtled down on its target without warning. Its range was much greater than the V-1, and the Germans continued to use it even after the launching sites in France and the Low Countries had been overrun by the Allied armies. The rocket bombs did less damage in England than the robots; but since no defense against the rockets was possible, they caused unequaled anxiety and fear. Yet neither V-1 nor V-2 had any consequential effect on the course of the war. They only increased the British determination to press the war to a bitter-end conclusion.

The havoc and dread created by the first flights of robots during June and July caused British morale to sag lower than it had in two years. Furthermore, as July wore on, Britons and the people of all the United Nations could not hide their disappointment at the apparent stalemate in Normandy. Then on July 21 came electrifying news out of Berlin; an attempt to assassinate Hitler and overthrow the Nazi regime had been made. All Allied troubles were temporarily forgotten as spirits rose at the portent of a collapse of the German home front. Evidences of growing defeatism in Germany had been observed for months, and this might be the beginning of the end.

The plot had been instigated by a disgruntled faction of army officers led by General Ludwig Beck, one-time chief of staff of the German army. Hitler had gathered with a number of his advisers at Berchtesgaden, and one of the plotters, Colonel Graf von Stauffenberg, had set off a bomb that had exploded only two yards away from the Fuehrer. Three among those present had been killed, but Hitler escaped with nothing more serious than burns on his right arm. The Fuehrer shortly thereafter broadcast reassurances to his people: "At an hour in which the German Army is waging a very hard struggle there has appeared in Germany a very small group similar to that in Italy, that believed it could thrust a dagger into our back as it did in 1918. . . . It is a very small clique of criminal elements, which will now be exterminated quite mercilessly."

Promptly General Beck committed suicide and Colonel von Stauffenberg was executed, and wholesale arrests and executions suppressed the threatened coup. Heinrich Himmler was given full authority to purge, by any means he saw fit, all suspected of disloyalty. Strict censorship prevailed, but rumors spread out of Germany of a blood-letting equal to Robespierre's Reign of Terror. The bright prospect of a widespread revolt dimmed as the weeks passed without further incident. Yet as Churchill's words indicate, the Allied world still had hopes: "They missed the old bounder —but there's time yet. There are grave signs of weakness in Germany. They are in a great turmoil inside and none can measure the extent."

Events were to prove, however, that the Allies were to get to Berlin the hard, slow way, on the ground. Following the seizure of Cherbourg, the Allied forces spent a month of careful probing of the enemy's lines. The ancient hedgerows of the Norman farms made excellent defensive bulwarks for the Germans, who mounted machine-guns behind the matted earthen banks. The bitter fighting waged to dig the Nazis out of their positions was reminiscent of the jungle and cave battles of the Pacific islands. Progress was so slow that the commanders began to be charged with overcaution, an accusation that failed to take into account the advantage terrain gave the defenders and the disadvantage the continued stormy skies presented to the air forces of the attackers.

At last on July 25 the weather cleared sufficiently for the planes to get off the ground. Two thousand planes took part in a terrific bombardment of the German lines; in a single hour the Eighth Air Force loosed 3,400 tons and the Ninth 1,000 tons. After the planes had done their work, the artillery further widened the path, and at last the tanks and infantry struck hard at the crumbling enemy front. Heavy Nazi resistance at Saint Lo was finally overcome, and thereupon the American attack thundered past Avranches out of Normandy and on through Brittany. One spearhead shot 100 miles across to the Bay of Biscay in four days, thus sealing Brittany with its fine ports of Brest, Saint Nazaire, Nantes, and Saint Malo off from the rest of France. While Nazi garrisons prepared to hold out as long as possible in the port cities, the bulk of the German forces fell back to avoid entrapment.

General Eisenhower and General Bradley raced after the retreating German armies rather than turn immediately to the task of reducing the Breton ports. While the First Army held the line in Brittany, the armor of Patton's Third Army was sent out in a wide enveloping sweep toward Paris. At the same time Montgomery's British troops lashed out from Caen and began a drive from their northern flank position toward the French capital. Near Falaise the combined efforts of British and American forces were responsible for the partial surrounding of the German Seventh Army and the inflicting of over 50,000 casualties on the enemy. The Nazis at that point began a general retreat.

With the Germans already reeling, the Allies further added to their woes by making new landings in France, this time on the Mediterranean coast. This operation was originally intended to be launched simultaneously with the Channel crossing, but lack of landing craft for two such assaults forced a postponement in the south. Another deterrent was the slow progress of Allied arms in Italy, for troops had to be withdrawn from that front to provide the manpower for the new push. Finally all difficulties had been solved; the necessary men from Italy and the ships from Normandy had arrived, and the mid-August date was set.

The British entered upon this new venture with many misgivings. They felt that a strong drive on Germany through Italy and the Balkans would be productive of greater good than a blow at Southern France. Eisenhower, on the other hand, had become convinced that the terrain on the Italian-Balkan front presented too many obstacles for a quick success. For that reason he held out for the invasion of Provence. He pointed out that the seizure of Marseille would give the Allies another large port through which American divisions inactive at home could be sent against the Germans. Churchill to the last offered opposition, and a week before the southern landings he argued strongly in favor of a switch from Provence to the ports of Brittany for the invasion. "Ike said no," according to the Harry Butcher version, "continued saying no all afternoon, and ended saying no in every form of the English language at his command." Churchill was so upset that he told Eisenhower that he might have to go to the King and "lay down the mantle of my high office." In the end, however, the Supreme Commander had his way.

D-Day for the southern landings was August 15. For three days the bombers had blown up bridges and blasted roads in the Rhone Valley, thus isolating the German troops in the coastal area. Then a fleet of 1,000 ships bore down upon Provence, the naval guns adding their explosives to the overwhelming aerial barrage. It was more than the thin line of German defenders could stand; with only two divisions on hand and without hope of reinforcements the Nazis were helpless. No Allied operation in Europe met less opposition or won a more resounding success than did this opening of a fourth front in Southern France.

Veteran troops from Italian battlefields in the Third, the Thirty-sixth, and the Forty-fifth Divisions took part in the first assault on Provence. They struck at several points on the 90 miles of coastline between Cannes and Toulon and thrust far inland from the beaches. By the end of the first day they controlled a strip 40 miles long and 20 miles deep. By the fifth day 100,000 men had landed. On the eighth day the Port of Marseille was captured and on the twelfth day a second port city, Toulon, was seized. Nice was occupied on August 31. Cities that had been expected to hold out for months were but weakly defended. The demoralization of the Germans in that sector was complete.

General Alexander M. Patch, commander of the Seventh Army that made the Provence landings, wasted no time in heading his forces up the Rhone River Valley. Within six weeks Patch had swept 150 miles inland and had captured such cities as Avignon, Grenoble, and Lyons. By mid-September the Seventh Army had reached the Belfort Gap and was ready to carry the battle on into Germany. With the enthusiastic aid of French *Maquis*, patriotic irregular soldiers, the Seventh Army made casualties of more than 60,000 of the enemy troops, over half of the Nazi forces in Southern France. Even Winston Churchill, who had watched the start of the operation from the deck of a destroyer, was ready to congratulate Eisenhower for insisting on the project.

As the Second Battle of France broadened from its early beachhead phase, General Eisenhower had a new rift in Anglo-American relationships with which to contend, the problem of supremacy in command. According to a prearranged plan the overall control in France would be in Eisenhower's hands, and under his leadership, General Montgomery would command the British Twenty-first Army Group and General Bradley the American Twelfth Army Group. Because of the small area of operations in Normandy, General Eisenhower had at first designated Montgomery as the chief of all Allied ground forces; but when the Allies broke through the bottleneck, Bradley was announced in the press as "promoted" to equality with "Monty." Actually no promotion had been granted; Bradley was simply taking a position agreed upon long before D-Day. Yet the British had heard rumors of the High Command's dissatisfaction with Montgomery's unimaginative leadership in France, had even heard talk of his removal, and the news of Bradley's "promotion" was interpreted as a demotion for the popular little Scot. On the other side of the Atlantic, Americans expressed resentment that equality with Bradley could be looked upon as degrading anyone and editorials decried "British dominance." Eisenhower at a press conference enlisted the aid of newspaper correspondents of both countries in quieting the dissension, and eventually an official explanation helped to clear the atmosphere.

Petty jealousies between the sensitive peoples of the United Nations continued to endanger their unity throughout the war. The avoidance of the pitfalls of Allied animosities remained one of Eisenhower's major concerns as long as he held the title of Supreme Commander. Any shift in equipment or troops from one sector to another would invariably provoke criticism. Let him send gasoline to Montgomery's forces, and disgusted American tank-men would say, "Eisenhower is the best general the British have." Let him allow more Americans than British to be seen in the newsreel pictures of the occupation of Paris, and he would be accused by Britons of yielding to his national prejudices. That Eisenhower came out of the war with any scalp left was a tribute to his unfailing tact and his genius for management.

The Allied drive out of Normandy and Brittany gathered such irresistible momentum that no combination of offstage Anglo-American bickering and onstage German opposition could bring it to a halt. Two great spearheads, each with a head of several prongs, thrust toward Paris. In the north Montgomery sent General Henry Crerar's Canadian First Army and General Sir Miles C. Dempsey's British Second Army forward in the direction of Rouen. Farther south Bradley pushed his two American armies, General Courtney H. Hodges' First and Patton's Third, toward Mantes and Fontainebleau. The German commander, Gunther von Kluge, concentrated his forces in the north, possibly out of a desire to defend the rocket-launching sites along the coast, and the American advance was phenomenal. Bradley used Le Mans as a fulcrum around which to wheel his forces north and east. Meanwhile the air arm ravaged Field Marshal von Kluge's supply lines, knocking out in a week's time 600 locomotives, 7,000 freight cars, and 10,000 vehicles. The German retreat became a rout as Allied tanks criss-crossed the Nazi ranks, chopped up their divisions, and pounded them to pieces against the Seine. General Montgomery was so encouraged by the heavy German losses that he could not hold back an optimistic prediction: "The end of the war is in sight."

As the Allies approached Paris, the Resistance forces of France came out of their underground hiding places to join in the fight for liberation. Inside the city the Parisian revolters got completely out of hand, and the Germans were unable to suppress them. At the city's gates Eisenhower ordered the Fighting French Second Armored Division, commanded by General Jacques Leclerc, to lead the way into the capital. The triumphant entry into Paris on August 25 touched off a wild celebration that came to a climax the following day as General de Gaulle led the jubilant French in a procession to Notre Dame. "We will not rest," said De Gaulle, "until we march, as we must, into enemy territory as conquerors. France has a right to be in the first line among the great nations who are going to organize the peace and the life of the world." No one bothered to notice that while these great events were taking place, Henri Petain and his collaborationist advisers were being whisked out of Vichy by the Nazis and taken to Morvillars on the Swiss border. Vichy died as Paris was reborn.

The Second Battle of France was soon over. The Allied columns streamed across the Seine after the retreating Germans. Battlefields of the First Battle of France and of wars past again were blood-stained. Patton's Third Army fought at the Marne, at Verdun, and at Metz, and Hodges' First Army rolled through Chateau-Thierry, Soissons, and Belleau Wood. The Canadians and the British entered Dieppe and Dunkirk, doubtless with mixed emotions and with memories of battles of another day. The rocket and robot coast fell to the British; Hodges and the First Army thrust into Belgium; Patton and the Third Army stabbed at the Reich's industrial Saar Basin. All natural defense lines where the Germans might have made a stand were enveloped before they could establish a stable front, at the Meuse, the Somme, the Aisne, and the Moselle. By September 15 six Allied armies stood before the Siegfried Line guarding the borders of Germany.

In their retreat from France, the Nazis left behind countless casualties and tremendous stores of equipment. Two weeks before France had been cleared, General Eisenhower made public the Allied estimate of enemy losses. A total of 3,545 German planes had been destroyed, two-thirds of them in the air and the remainder on the ground. Enemy tanks knocked out or captured numbered 1,300, transport vehicles 20,000, guns 2,000. The figure for Nazi dead and wounded was placed at 200,000 and for prisoners taken captive another 200,000. By November 1 these estimates had been boosted to 600,000 prisoners and to 1,000,000 for the grand total of casualties. Twenty enemy infantry divisions and five armored divisions were declared to have been shattered, and 12 additional infantry and six other *Panzer* divisions were announced as "badly cut up." Four more divisions isolated in the Breton ports brought the total of infantry and *Panzer* divisions destroyed or badly battered to 47. Among the Nazi generals killed was Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, the erstwhile "Desert Fox," who was reported to have died of wounds inflicted by a swooping fighter pilot.

As the Battle of Germany began in the west, General Eisenhower made one more Allied attempt to capitalize on the rumored unrest within the Reich. In a proclamation to the German people he declared: "We come as conquerors but not as oppressors. . . . We shall overthrow the Nazi rule, dissolve the Nazi party and abolish the cruel, oppressive and discriminatory laws and institutions which the party has created. We shall eradicate that German militarism which has so often disrupted the peace of the world." The German people, however, paid no heed; even in the face of invasion and defeat the Nazis reigned supreme on the home front.

A spectacular maneuver seeking a swift access into Germany by outflanking the Siegfried Line was launched on September 17. In the hope of catching the enemy still out of breath from the run across France, airborne landings behind the Nazi lines were made in Holland just beyond the German city of Cleve, where the

Siegfried Line came to its northern end. The same three divisions that jumped on D-Day, the American 82nd and 101st and the British First, by that time formed into the First Allied Airborne Army under General Lewis H. Brereton's command, made the landings in Holland. The plan was for the paratroopers to disorganize the enemy's rear and to seize bridges that could be used by General Dempsey's British Second Army in swinging around the Siegfried Line and on into the Ruhr Valley of Germany. General Brereton gave his men a view of their role with these words: "On the success of your mission . . . rests the difference between a quick decision in the west and a long-drawn-out battle."

The jump into Holland started out auspiciously, but the Germans rallied in time to bring the move for a "quick decision" to an abrupt halt. The Americans accomplished their purposes at Eindhoven and Nijmegen and at the latter city seized a key bridge before it could be blown up by the Nazis. At Arnhem, the most advanced and therefore the most dangerous objective, the British First Airborne was met with deadly enemy resistance. The Allied strategy had called for a junction of Dempsey's Second Army with the British paratroopers at Arnhem, but the Germans kept slashing at the Second's flanks and cutting its line of supply with the result that Dempsey failed to reach the point of rendezvous in time to achieve the hoped-for success. For nine days the British force at Arnhem, encircled and with little expectation of relief, withstood a withering fire of machine guns and mortars and artillery. On the night of September 25 the tattered remnants of the British First Airborne Division slipped through the German lines, but of the 8,000 paratroopers that jumped on September 17, only 2,000 came out alive. The Nazis had held securely to the northern anchor of their West Wall.

The failure to outflank the Siegfried Line caused the Allies to resort to a frontal assault in an effort to smash through into Germany. From Arnhem to Belfort artillery barrages hammered at the concrete defenses, but no breach wide enough to allow the passage of an army could be quickly made. The major Allied efforts were made at Aachen and at Metz. An attack by the First Army on Aachen on October 2 finally was rewarded with success; after three weeks of bitter struggle Aachen, better known to Americans by its French name of Aix-la-Chapelle, fell and thereby became the first large German city to be captured by the Americans. At Metz Patton and his Third Army were slowed down to a yard-by-yard walk. As winter's bad weather closed in, it became plain that the Allied hope for a decision in 1944 would have to wait.

The Allies, by scoring one of the smashing victories of modern history in the Second Battle of France, completed the process of pushing the forgotten battlefront in Italy into the background. There the United States Fifth Army and the British Eighth Army continued to wage their luckless campaign against Kesselring's forces. The contrast between the successes in France and the failures in Italy during 1944 merely served to emphasize the turnabout in Allied strategy since the invasion of Sicily. From an original plan to drive the Germans out of the peninsula, the Allies had clearly changed their concept to the use of Italy as an area of diversion. In its diversionary aspect, at least, the campaign was successful, for thousands of Nazis were held in Italy that might have been used to better advantage on other fronts. According to General Alexander, the Nazis on November 1 had 28 divisions engaged along their Gothic Line. Moreover, with 200,000 already lost in the defense of Italy, the Germans were paying a heavy price for attempting to hold their Fortress Europe intact.

The August invasion of Southern France by the Seventh Army and the subsequent push up the Rhone for a time gave Alexander hope that Kesselring might deem it wise to withdraw from Italy. Communications between the German armies in France and those in Italy were severed by the seizure of the Rhone Valley, and the capture of Nice on August 31 threatened Kesselring's rear. Yet the German commander coolly held his ground, a decision that proved sound when the Allies demonstrated no inclination to strike into Italy from France. The Belfort Gap, of course, was the objective of the Seventh Army, not the Po Valley.

At times in September and October, the British and American troops seemed about to crack the Gothic Line. A deep hole was punched in its defenses at Pesaro, and minor gains were registered at the eastern and western extremities of the peninsula-wide front. In late September General Mark Clark's Public Relations Officer announced that the Americans had smashed through the Gothic Line by crossing the Apennines above Bologna, and the American press began to talk of liquidating the Germans in Italy. "For Field Marshal Albert Kesselring the end of his long, skillful campaign in Italy was now in sight," reported *Time* for October 2, 1944. "The only possible salvage still open to him was to withdraw his small army successfully to the fierce crags of the Dolomites, which form a better defense line than any he has held heretofore. There, on the frontier, he should be able to keep General Sir Harold Alexander from penetrating into Austria."

While the Fifth Army had won a victory before the German defense line, taking in the process 10,000 prisoners, the communique describing the battle as a breakthrough proved to be without foundation. Again General Clark found himself in the hot waters of the home front. The New York *Herald Tribune* charged that Clark's headquarters was giving out stories of advances that were not supported by the facts. The army newspaper *Stars and Stripes* added its voice against the wishful thinking in official dispatches: "Why has the Fifth Army advance been slowed down to the same grudging advance of hill to hill—when a breakthrough of the Gothic Line had definitely been claimed? That is the question being heard from armchair strategists and also from frontline fighters who could not help but be amazed when they read: 'Fifth Army Cracks Gothic Line Defense.'"

Actually a more promising dent in the German front was made by the British at Rimini at the eastern end of the line. The city was captured but the expected debauch into the plains of the Po Valley failed to materialize. The Nazis fought back and with the aid of winter rains brought the drive to a standstill before level country could be reached by the Allies. Kesselring's resistance was so determined that it seemed that he felt that the fate of Germany was being decided at the Gothic Line rather than at the West Wall. Why did the Germans hold on in Italy when the need for troops in the homeland had reached the desperation stage? *Time* for November 13, 1944, gives this summary of General Alexander's reply to that question: "(1) for prestige—Italy, a former ally, is the major territory outside Germany that is still held; (2) for morale—further retreat would affect the home front; (3) for supply—the industries of north Italy are still useful."

Conferences between the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union in the months before D-Day had resulted in agreements which guaranteed the coordination of attacks upon the Third Reich. Simultaneous with the opening of the new front in Normandy, the Russians were to begin a drive, thus leaving to the Germans the problem of deciding whether the blows from the east or the west presented the greater danger. The week after D-Day the Red Army launched its summer offensive.

At first the Russian attacks were a disappointment to many of the Americans and the British. The Red Army struck in full strength and with all its demonstrated power, but the direction its drives took was a surprise to Anglo-American observers. Instead of heading straight across Poland to Berlin, the Russians struck in the north at Finland and in the south in the Balkans. Only when the German flanks were rolled back to the satisfaction of the Russians did they begin their blows at the center of their line in Poland.

The initial Soviet attack on June 12 was directed at Finland. By the end of the month the Red Army had overrun the fortress city of Viborg and had gained control of the Leningrad-Murmansk Railroad. Then the Russians began a furious campaign to drive the Germans out of White Russia, almost the only area in the Soviet Union still under Nazi control. First Vitebsk and then the other Soviet cities held by the Germans fell; the last Nazi stronghold in White Russia, Minsk, was taken over by the Reds early in July. Vilna, in Lithuania, was captured on July 14, Brest-Litovsk in Poland was seized on July 28. On August 1 the Red Army plunged to the Baltic at the Gulf of Riga in Latvia, cutting off large German forces in Latvia and Estonia. By August 10 the hard-driving columns of General Ivan Chernyakhovsky had reached East Prussia, and the armies of Marshal Konstantin Rokossovsky and Marshal Ivan Konev were crossing the Vistula only 60 miles from Warsaw. From Vitebsk to the Vistula the Russians had covered nearly 500 miles, more than half the distance to Berlin.

As on the western front, there began to be premature talk of Nazi disintegration in the east. "The Germans no longer had much semblance of a line on the Eastern Front, except on maps," reported *Time* for July 31, 1944. "They had only bloody, bewildered fragments of armies, of divisions, tossed about and swallowed like debris in a tidal wave." As in the west, the Germans brought this overoptimism up short by staging an effective counterattack that slowed down the Russian drives. *Panzer* assaults before Warsaw stopped the Reds short of the Polish capital, and heavy blows by the Germans at Riga drove back the Soviet forces and permitted the reestablishment of communications with the trapped Nazi divisions in Latvia and Estonia. The *Wehrmacht* had not disintegrated.

The Soviet armies, stalled in the north, next opened a Balkan offensive. On August 20, General Rodion Malinovsky and General Fedor Tolbukhin led their armies across Bessarabia in Rumania and gave the German and Rumanian forces there a demonstration of the Russian style of *blitzkrieg*. Within a week the Red armies advanced 125 miles and killed or captured some 300,000 of the enemy. It was more than the Rumanians could stand, and they began to surrender by the thousands. Thereupon the Rumanian government begged for an armistice, only to be met by this reply from Moscow: "The help of the Rumanian Army to the Red Army in the liquidation of German troops is the only means of speedily . . . concluding an armistice between Rumania and the Allies." In spite of the Berlin radio's outcries against "treason" and "perfidy," the Rumanians turned one of the war's many political somersaults by declaring war on the ally at whose side they had fought for nearly three years. Hostilities between Rumania and the Allies then came to an end.

Together the Russians and the Rumanians fought their way

into Bucharest. The Nazis before withdrawing from the Rumanian capital vented their rage against their erstwhile ally by attempting to tear the city apart. At the Ploesti oilfields they did comparable damage, an action which of course could be justified on the grounds of military necessity. In running the Germans from Rumania, the Reds smashed nearly 20 divisions that Hitler could ill afford to lose, turned 25 Rumanian divisions into enemies of the Reich, deprived the Nazis of an important source from which to replenish their dwindling supply of oil, and paved the way for drives that were to force the Germans out of the Balkans.

No sooner had Rumania deserted the Germans than another Nazi satellite let it be known that it too wanted to get out of the Axis camp. Bulgaria's Premier Ivan Bagrianoff spoke out even before Rumania had quit: "The majority of the Bulgarian people never wanted to interfere in a large-scale conflict between great powers. The government declares it fully recognized this. It is determined to remove all obstacles that stand in the way of the Bulgarian people's love for peace." As a first step, 12 Bulgarian divisions that had helped the German war machine in Greece and Yugoslavia were called home. To demonstrate that no half-way measures would suffice, Russia acted to force Bulgaria to make a decision by issuing a declaration of war against her. The Bulgarian government knowing that the price of an armistice with Russia was a complete switch in allegiance pondered only three days before proclaiming itself in a state of war with Germany. For one wild day, the Bulgars found themselves at war with both the Allies and the Axis, but at last the peace arrangements were completed with the Soviet Union. Bulgaria had joined Rumania in the Allied fold.

When on September 3, Finland followed the example of Rumania and Bulgaria and made peace with Russia, in all Europe only Hungary was left as a Nazi ally. The misguided decision of Admiral Horthy to adhere to the German alliance was a fateful and costly one for the Magyars, for it permitted the Nazis to use Hungary for a cheap last-ditch defense of Germany. The house-to-house fight waged by the Nazis for Budapest was their way of defending Vienna, and yet it was the beautiful old capital of Hungary that suffered. Neither Germany nor Russia showed any inclination to exercise moderation, and the Battle of Hungary was notably violent and destructive.

The Russians struck across Hungary's borders at two points. First their armies raced into Yugoslavia from Rumania, made a junction with Marshal Tito's Partisan forces, and then rolled on northward. Next General Ivan Petroff drove through Czechoslovakia and pushed past Hungary's eastern frontier. Thus the Carpathian Mountain barrier was completely outflanked, and the plains of Hungary offered ready access into the interior. Only the heavy rains that turned the lowlands into a sea of mud provided any effective resistance to the two-pronged Soviet advance. In October it was Admiral Horthy's turn to seek a truce with Russia, but his appeal to the Allies was blocked by the Nazis; they seized Horthy and hustled him off to a German prison. A Berlin-controlled regime carried out German orders in Hungary until the walls of Budapest began to give way in January, 1945; then at last a new Hungarian government was granted an Allied armistice upon accepting an agreement that Magyar divisions would be furnished for the final blows against Germany. The *Drang nach Osten* had been completely reversed.

When Premier Bagrianoff spoke of Bulgaria's desire to cut its ties with Hitler and hop on the Allied bandwagon, he used these significant words: "This war will certainly end with a large-scale social organization of mankind, both horizontally and vertically. It will end with certain achievements as far as the form of government is concerned. . . will lead to the strengthening of the democratic concept . . . to more political freedom for the individual. It will end with achievements in the economic field that will reduce the exploitation of man by man." This unmistakable overture to Russia showed a willingness to adopt communism in some form if only the Russian armies would spare the Bulgarian people. The effect of the whole great Soviet southern drive, as a matter of fact, was to give Russia a dominance in the Balkan Peninsula that was political as well as military. A display of armed might had enabled the Soviet Union to realize an ambition cherished by Russians for centuries: ready access to the open waters of the Mediterranean.

Great Britain, the long-standing opponent of Russian power in the Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean, as an ally of the Soviet Union was in no position to speak out against this upset to British diplomacy. That the Empire of Disraeli and Churchill would be heard from in its own good time no one doubted. Britain's perennial concern with Balkan matters was demonstrated in the autumn of 1944 when British troops landed in Greece, ostensibly to bring aid to Greek guerrillas who had arisen against the Germans. The British, however, stayed to participate in a controversy between rival Greek factions, a controversy that grew so violent and bloody that pitched battles in Athens brought back memories of the days of war against Germany and Italy. While critics in England and America voiced their displeasure at "power politics," Churchill pursued a course he admitted was intended to put an anti-communistic party in control in Greece. This was Churchill's way of saying that Britain's interest in the Balkans and the Mediterranean had not waned. The Balkans, as an area of tension, could not even stay quiet until World War II was won.

A similar clash between British and Soviet policy was revealed when the Red Army began its Polish offensive against the Germans. As the Reds advanced into Poland, they let it be known that they had no intention of doing business with the British-recognized Polish government in exile. Instead they helped a pro-Russian group of Poles to organize a Polish Committee of National Liberation. The unequal contest between the London and Moscow committee could have only one ending; with the Soviet armies actually on Polish soil the Russian committee was bound to gain general recognition.

While the Anglo-Soviet discussions over the legal Polish government were in progress, however, a tragic chapter in Poland's unhappy history was added at Warsaw. On August 1, 1944, as the Reds closed in on the capital city, the underground army of Poles arose in Warsaw and joined in the fight for liberation; under General Tadeusz Komorowski, who had adopted the *nom de guerre* of "General Bor," the Poles struggled for 63 days to oust the Nazis. The Russians meanwhile brought their Warsaw drive to a halt and refused to move to the aid of General Bor. Bor and his partisans, Moscow coldly explained, had been "foully deceived by a group of adventurous and political speculators of London emigre governments," and consequently the blame for failure of the abortive uprising must fall upon the anti-communistic policies of the British-sponsored group. Public clamor in England finally aroused Churchill enough to send some help; British planes flew from Italy with supplies for Warsaw's patriots that might have been delivered from Russian airports. This little aid arrived too late, however, and General Bor was compelled to yield. Thousands of Poles had died in a second heroic Battle of Warsaw with nothing but a ruined city to show for their sufferings.

The blame for this whole painful episode cannot altogether be placed at Moscow's door. Russia's military leaders insisted that they could not make a frontal assault on Warsaw until they had freed their flanks of the danger of German attack. This claim is borne out by Russia's subsequent difficulty in taking Warsaw, for three months were to pass after General Bor's surrender before the Red Armies fought their way into the Polish capital. Yet Soviet spokesmen could not deny that their press and radio had exerted a great deal of time in an effort to discredit General Bor. Nor could they deny that Russia had withheld help from the partisans until after the long journeys of British airmen from Italy had made it embarrassing to delay longer. Nor could they deny that the aid granted was in no way commensurate with the Russian capacity to give. Russians charged that the upsurge of the Warsaw underground had been prompted by a desire to take from the Soviet the credit for the city's liberation. The Americans and British, however, had not allowed such fears to deter them from driving on into Paris; there the *Maquis* had claimed the victory, but the Allied leaders in France had been undisturbed. The Russians had won enough glory to be able to share a little of it with the Poles. In all the Warsaw tragedy one point is clear: had the Reds wanted to aid General Bor as much as he wanted to aid them, the Soviet contribution to the city's capitulation would have been considerably greater in August and September than it was. In that case the second Battle of Warsaw could have had a different ending.

So sweeping were the Allied victories in 1944 that the people of the United Nations began to think in terms of victory only, and they were wholly unprepared, therefore, for any setback that might be sustained. In the United States, plans had already been made for a reconversion to peacetime production, and workers in war plants were beginning to switch to jobs in factories turning out civilian goods. These sanguine expectations were kindled by governmental spokesmen and military commanders who spoke glibly of a German collapse before Christmas. Warning had been served by the Nazis at Arnhem that they were by no means on the verge of collapse, but that lesson had not been heeded. Now as 1944 drew to a close Allied overconfidence was given a hard jolt by a stunning German counterattack on the western front.

In December, 1944, the western front extended from the Mediterranean to the English Channel, the most active sector being along the 350 miles of German border from Basel to Arnhem. The seven Allied armies facing the Reich were divided into three groups: in the north was Montgomery's British Twenty-first Army Group, composed of Crerar's Canadian First Army and Dempsey's British Second Army; in the center was Bradley's American Twelfth Army Group, consisting of General William H. Simpson's newly formed Ninth Army, Hodges' First Army, and Patton's Third Army; and in the south was Devers' Sixth Army Group, composed of Patch's American Seventh Army and General Jean de Lattre de Tassigny's French First Army.

Fifty-seven divisions grouped in seven armies might seem to be a formidable array of military strength, but, contrary to the complacent public opinion nurtured by the press, the Allied units were thinly stretched along the West Wall. Marshal Foch in 1918 had at his disposal 220 divisions and had shorter and far less

powerful enemy lines to face. General Eisenhower and his subordinate commanders, confronted by 70 German divisions firmly planted in their Siegfried Line, were able to achieve numerical superiority only by concentrating their forces in certain areas for attack purposes, leaving other points inadequately manned. Consequently, when in November and December of 1944 a build-up in the northern sector before Cologne was attempted by the Allies, they chose to leave only a small force in the Ardennes Forest, a region both mountainous and wooded and regarded as an improbable area for action in winter.

Nevertheless the Ardennes was for Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt a favorite battleground, for it had been in that area that he had outflanked the Maginot Line in 1940. There again on December 16, 1944, he launched an offensive against the Allies that seemed at first destined to develop into another general battle for France. "Your great hour has struck," he told the *Wehrmacht*. "Strong attacking armies are advancing against the Anglo-Americans. I do not need to say more to you. You all feel it. Everything is at stake. You bear the holy duty to . . . achieve the superhuman for our Fatherland and our Fuehrer." In their "great hour" the Germans scored a breakthrough by overrunning the American 106th Division, an untried unit which had been assigned to that "quiet" sector to get front line experience. Two-thirds of the infantry components of the 106th Division were lost, most of them taken prisoner.

The objectives of Von Rundstedt in this winter counter-offensive is still a matter of dispute. His words "Everything is at stake" led some to decide that this was an end-all campaign, the long-delayed stroke that would seek to push the Allies into the waters of the Channel. The German plan, however, scarcely embraced any intention of a new Schlieffen envelopment of the Allied armies in France. From the number of divisions Von Rundstedt employed he appears to have sought to upset and delay any attack on Germany from the west by forcing the Allies to change from an offensive to a defensive strategy. German reconnaissance had brought him information on the imminence of Allied attacks; by attacking first and catching the Allies off their guard he would be able to gain time. Time in the west meant Nazi divisions saved for a defense against the Russians.

Von Rundstedt's initial breakthrough achieved the shock and surprise he had wished. He drove through the front of Hodges' First Army and so split it that Eisenhower had to make a hasty rearrangement in command. The elements of the First Army north of the Nazi spearhead were assigned to Montgomery and those to the south were left under Bradley's control, and not until the German bulge in the Allied front had been eliminated did the army groups return to normal. Further confusion was thrown into Allied ranks by the dropping of Nazi parachutists dressed in American uniforms behind the First Army's lines. The combination of the German armored advance and the paratroop invasion caused a bad case of the jitters to be experienced by the people of all the United Nations, feelings shared in some instances within the inner circle of the High Command. Fears were expressed for the lives of Eisenhower and some 150 other important officers, stories being circulated that trained German troops had been dropped where they could stalk and shoot the key leaders. General Eisenhower was heavily guarded.

The Supreme Commander, however, refused to share in the prevailing gloom. Captain Butcher reports in these words Eisenhower's reaction to the "Battle of the Bulge" while it was at its height: "Over all, he felt that the situation was well in hand; that there was no need for alarm; that he and his senior commanders had taken prompt steps to meet what he figured was the Germans' dying thrust, and if we would be patient and the Lord would give us some good flying weather, all would be well and we would probably emerge with a tactical victory. He added that it is easier and less costly to us to kill Germans when they are attacking than when they are holed up in concrete fortifications in the Siegfried Line, and the more we can kill in their present offensive, the fewer we will have to dig out pillbox by pillbox."

Von Rundstedt used three columns in his counterthrust. The northernmost column struck through St. Vith toward Liege and Antwerp; another in the center reached out for Bastogne; and the southern spearhead stabbed at Sedan. Sedan was never in actual danger, for the Nazi attack in that direction was soon blunted, but Liege and Bastogne were held only by heroic stands by American forces. The high tide of the Nazi offensive was reached between December 18 and December 21. During that period the Germans had punched a hole 50 miles deep in the American lines; they had by-passed St. Vith and Bastogne and seemed ready to take Liege and drive on to the Meuse. The American troops, many of them worn out from continuous combat duty since D-Day, appeared too tired to stop the rejuvenated Germans. The Nazis began to talk of being in Paris by Christmas.

Yet the Germans never reached Paris; they were not permitted to get so far as the Meuse. "The essence of this change," T. H. Thomas writes in *Current History* for May, 1945, "was brought about by plain fighting—by the way British and American troops stood up to Von Rundstedt. Their contribution came at the critical time, when the odds were against them. They wrecked the best armored troops von Rundstedt could bring into battle. They turned the whole German force west of the Rhine into an army that knew it was beaten."

As soon as the Germans began their advance, General Eisenhower moved to check the threat by ordering attacks on the flanks of the enemy salient. The Seventh Armored Division struck from the north, and the Tenth Armored Division pounded the southern sector of the bulge. The 101st Airborne Division was hastily pulled out of a rest center and rushed to Bastogne with orders to hold on until General Patton could hurry the Fourth Armored Division northward to bring relief. The First Division was thrown across the roads to Liege, thus blocking the enemy's path towards its principal immediate objective.

All of these units gave spectacular demonstrations of what Thomas called "plain fighting." The Seventh Armored Division compelled the Germans to engage in a protracted struggle for St. Vith, thus checking their breakthrough just as it was gathering speed. The 101st Airborne, although surrounded, refused the Nazi demand for surrender by sending back a reply in classic American: "Nuts!" The First Division stood for eight days against the German Armored thrust at Liege and thereby saved that key city. The Fourth Armored Division raced through Luxembourg in record time, and at full speed charged into the Nazis at the Bastogne bastion. To complete Von Rundstedt's discomfiture the weather cleared on December 21, and for the first time since the Battle of the Bulge began Allied planes were able to operate with effectiveness; it was an opportunity that the Ninth Air Force did not miss. Altogether the men of these units rose to the "new heights of courage" called for in Eisenhower's order of the day issued on December 23: "By rushing out from his fixed defenses the enemy has given us the chance to turn his great gamble into his worst defeat. So I call upon every man, of all the Allies, to rise now to new heights of courage, of resolution, and of effort. Let everyone hold before him a single thought—to destroy the enemy on the ground, in the air, everywhere—destroy him!"

The Battle of the Bulge, which continued until February 1, 1945, as the Allies battered at the Nazi salient, was for the Germans a limited victory. The American losses alone numbered nearly 100,000 dead, wounded, or captured. The German casualty figures had gone above 100,000, but Von Rundstedt had relieved the pressure against the northern end of the Siegfried Line and had delayed the Allied offensive on the western front. Thereafter 20 Nazi divisions could be withdrawn from the West Wall to face the Russians, who had begun another massive drive in mid-January. The Ardennes campaign had thrown the Americans and the British out of gear, and they were unable to get moving again for nearly two months. Yet once a western offensive was launched, the Germans were forced to surrender within six weeks. The Von Rundstedt push toward the Meuse proved to be as Eisenhower had said a "dying thrust."

The Ardennes breakthrough, fortunately for the Allies, had only in part disrupted their supply system, and the flow of goods to the fronts was thereafter speeded up to overcome the losses. Despite the lack of harbors, the supply services equalled their matchless D-Day performance by maintaining a continuous stream of war materials over supply lines that rapidly lengthened as the armies moved away from the coasts farther into the center of Europe. "What was more," *Time* for September 25, 1944, recorded, "the supplies closely followed the slashing, wheeling, speeding columns of Allied tanks and infantry via plane, truck, pipeline and railroad. . . . This miracle was in the American tradition, a tradition the Germans have never really understood. It was begotten of a people accustomed to great spaces, to transcontinental railways, to nationwide trucking chains, to endless roads and millions of automobiles, to mail order houses, department stores and supermarkets; of a nation of builders and movers. It was also a miracle in the British tradition, begotten of a people who for generations have sailed all waters, great and small, and delivered their goods to every shore and harbor of the world."

Irwin Ross, in the June, 1945, issue of *Current History*, points out that the overcoming of the obstacles in the way of supplying a large mobile force deprived as it was of the use of sufficient ports was an all-important factor in the ultimate Allied victory. This was something on which the Germans had not counted; it upset their whole plan of defense in the west. "The Germans," writes Ross, "did not stake everything on preventing a beachhead, or beating it back once it was established. One of their primary aims was to block our flow of supplies, causing our armies to bog down and fall easy prey to their counter-attack. To accomplish this aim, the Germans tenaciously hung on to the continental ports until long after we expected to capture them, and then systematically destroyed all harbor installations before surrender." Cherbourg, Brest, Le Havre, and Rouen were captured between June and September of 1944, but in each instance months were needed for the repair work to make the harbors ready for use. Antwerp, which fell in September, was one port city that the Nazis did not have time to destroy.

When the Allies swept through France, some method of systematically moving supplies inland had to be arranged. The first

solution was the organizing of the "Red Ball Express," a truck line across France that constituted a haul four times the length of the famous Burma Road. Eleven thousand drivers kept the trucks speeding high priority cargo over the two one-way highways. During the 81 days of the Red Ball's operation, more than 500,000 tons of supplies were transported. After the capture of ports close to Germany, the Red Ball Express was replaced by the "White Ball," by the "ABC" line, and by "Operation XYZ," all truck hauls designed to hurry materials to the front. In addition to the trucks, railroads were pressed into service as quickly as repairs could be made. Some 20,000 cars and locomotives were moved from England to France, and thereafter the railroads took over the major share of the task of transportation. By the opening of 1945 the battle of supply in western Europe had been won; over 120,000 tons of materials were being moved each day. Men as well as supplies were moved to the front, including the new Fifteenth Army, commanded by General Leonard T. Gerow. All was in readiness for the march on Berlin.

The final campaign to knock Germany out of the war was opened by the Russians on the eastern front on January 12, 1945. Near the Vistula south of Warsaw, Marshal Konev chose a sector 25 miles in length along which to mass thousands of artillery pieces, and after directing a withering barrage at the enemy, his army was sent through the blasted Nazi lines. Simultaneously Marshal Zhukov led an army across the Vistula before Warsaw and smashed directly toward the city. Two other Soviet columns struck north and south of the two main points of attack, one in East Prussia and the other north of Budapest. It was a crushing onslaught on the grand scale.

This winter offensive produced startling gains, with the Russians sweeping all opposition aside as they rolled toward the German border. On January 17, Warsaw, by that time a wasted ghost of a city, was captured. On January 19, two other Polish cities, Lodz and Cracow, fell to the Soviet forces. On January 20, Tilsit in East Prussia fell, and on the following day Tannenberg was added to the list of Soviet conquests. By the last of January the Red Army was in German Silesia, poised on the banks of the Oder River.

In industrial Silesia, second only to the Ruhr as a manufacturing center for Germany, Marshal Konev dealt the Nazis a staggering blow. He needed only a week to sweep through that rich region where German defenses and fortifications had been considered as strong as any in the Reich. Breslau held out until March, but the remainder of Silesia fell before Konev's remarkable drive. Synthetic oil plants, munitions works, steel mills, and mines, all invaluable to Hitler in his desperate attempt to prolong the war, were gathered up by Konev's army.

By the end of the first week in February, both Zhukov and Konev had driven to the Oder River. Since their advance had carried them 225 miles in 23 days, it was felt that they would pause to regroup their forces. They did the unexpected, however, by throwing spearheads across the river without delay, and then by sending their armies over to widen the bridgeheads. Between February 6 and February 12, the front on the west bank of the Oder was lengthened to 100 miles, and the Soviet armies moved 50 miles beyond the river. The Russians took up the exultant cry *Dayosh Berlin*, "Give us Berlin!"

Yet Berlin was not to fall to the Russians immediately. After 275 miles of hard fighting, the Red Army was finally brought to a standstill. Nearly six weeks were needed by Zhukov before he could gather his forces for another great drive toward the center of Germany. After what his men had accomplished they deserved a rest. Marshal Stalin's official announcement gives some indication of the immensity of their achievements: 800,000 Germans were reported killed, and 350,000 were claimed as prisoners.

While the Russian armies were catching their breath, the American and British forces saw to it that the Germans had no respite. On February 8, General Montgomery's Twenty-first Army Group, following a prolonged bombardment by artillery and some 2,000 planes, pushed into Cleve at the northern end of the Siegfried Line. Then on February 23, while most of the Nazi armored strength concentrated in the Cleve sector, General Simpson's Ninth Army struck across the Roer River toward Cologne. The original plan had called for Simpson's attack to coincide with Montgomery's, but the Americans were delayed for two weeks by the floods in the river valley created by the enemy's cutting of the Roer dams. Once started, however, the Ninth Army was hard to stop, and by March 6 it had driven to the Rhine.

Meanwhile other of the Allied armies had lunged forward. The First Army of General Hodges, moving south of the Ninth's columns, captured Cologne on March 6. Patton's Third Army broke into the Saar Basin, seized Trier on March 2, and pushed on to Coblenz and the Rhine. Patch's Seventh Army also advanced at the southern end of the long front. The air forces, given good flying weather for a change, pounded the enemy unceasingly. The pressure was too great for the Germans, and they were forced to abandon the Rhineland.

Eisenhower's prearranged pattern for the initial drive into Germany had aimed at the destruction of a major portion of Von Rundstedt's army west of the Rhine. The enemy, by a hasty withdrawal from the Rhineland, prevented the annihilation of the *Wehrmacht*, but the defeat and capture of a considerable number of the Germans were achieved by the converging Allied armies. Patton was sent south across the Moselle, and he and Patch closed the pincers on the Germans in the Saar, chewing two Nazi armies to pieces. While many of the Nazis escaped to safety across the Rhine, most of the Reich's armies in the west were knocked out of the war. General Eisenhower announced to a press conference that the enemy dead and wounded were still unreckoned but that 250,000 Germans had been taken prisoner before they could evade entrapment.

The Rhine proved to be no more of an obstacle for the Allies in the west than the Oder had been for the Russians on the eastern front. On March 8, spearheads of the First Army came upon the Ludendorff railroad bridge across the Rhine at Remagen. Determined to seize the bridge intact, the Americans raced on to the span and set to work cutting wires and detaching detonators connected to the dynamite charges prepared by the enemy. German soldiers and civilians had gathered to watch the demolition of the bridge, but the quick work of the American engineers deprived the spectators of their show. Some of the explosives caused minor damage, but the bridge remained standing.

This unexpected windfall brought about a hasty revision of Allied strategy, for the crossing of the Rhine had not been contemplated until after all of the Allied armies had been moved up along the river's west bank. Eisenhower, however, directed that the seizure of the Ludendorff bridge be fully exploited, and Hodges promptly poured five divisions over the Rhine. Tanks and trucks and all sorts of heavy equipment followed. The bridge at Remagen stood only 10 days, finally falling before enemy bombardment; but it lasted long enough for the Third Army to secure a firm foothold on the Rhine's east bank. Before March Supreme Headquarters had warned the public that a long period of preparation would be needed for the Rhine crossing, and yet the Remagen bridgehead had been established in a few hours. Most of the heroic engineers who were repairing the bridge when it finally fell were drowned, but they helped make possible the crossing of the river at a nominal cost in American casualties.

No immediate attempt was made to break out of the Remagen bridgehead. A considerable amount of mopping up was still necessary in the Saar pocket and in other sectors west of the Rhine; not until the German divisions in the Rhineland had been completely wiped out could the offensive beyond the river begin. Nevertheless, the Nazis made the mistake of concentrating at Remagen in anticipation of a heavy blow there, leaving other points in their Rhine defenses weakly garrisoned. Thus when the combined English and American forces began the next phase of their campaign on March 24, they were able to throw pontoon bridges over the Rhine and make a general river crossing from Arnhem to Karlsruhe. The Battle of the Rhineland won, the Allies moved on to the Battle of the Ruhr.

The Ruhr offensive was carefully staged by General Eisenhower since the seizure of this great industrial section was considered essential to the defeat of Germany. So vital was it that without the war materials that flowed from the Ruhr the Nazi war machine could not hope long to continue to function. The complete encirclement of the Ruhr was accomplished by columns of the Ninth Army which struck from the north and of the First Army which swept in from the south, the two armies joining at Paderborn in "the largest double envelopment in military history," to use the words of Eisenhower's chief of staff, General Walter B. Smith. Twenty-one Nazi divisions, including a total of more than 300,000 men, were wiped out in this Ruhr pocket. General Smith's press conference summary indicates the nature of the victory: "We have studied the double envelopment from Cannae down through Tannenberg, but never have we seen anything like this before. I suppose it's the ideal of every military commander some day to execute a maneuver of this kind. No body ever expects to, and now it's been done. The result was that the Germans forces on our front which might have opposed our further advance were completely eliminated." Perhaps the most remarkable feature of this stupendous victory had been that it had developed according to a blueprint Eisenhower had prepared long before.

Thereafter the Germans were never able to establish a stable front in the west. Opposition to the Allies was by isolated groups, some of which yielded easily while others fought with die-hard fanaticism. Montgomery's Twenty-first Army Group cleared most of Holland. Bradley's Twelfth Army Group gathered speed daily as it raced toward the next great German river, the Elbe. The First and Ninth Armies arrived at the Elbe in mid-April, and promptly they threw bridgeheads across the river. The Third Army in a sweep to the south sped through Baden, Wurttemberg, and Bavaria. Included in the bag of German cities were Bremen, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Magdenburg, Augsburg, and Munich.

At the Elbe, however, General Eisenhower called a halt. Later some American newspapers carried stories suggesting that the Supreme Commander had stopped the victorious plunge toward Berlin because of previous agreements made with the Russians.

The Red Army wanted the glory and prestige that went with the capture of Berlin, it was asserted, and consequently Eisenhower had deferred to the Soviet Union's wishes. No such arrangement, however, appears to have been made either by military or political leaders. Eisenhower had many reasons for stopping at the Elbe: the need for regrouping, the problem of straightening out supply lines, the dangers of confusion arising from a two-sided siege. Since the assault on Berlin would have cost many American lives, the criticism of the American press seems misplaced in any event; Eisenhower could afford to forego a triumphal entry into the German capital if the Russians preferred to furnish the troops for the attack. The war and the glory had been won before Berlin fell, and it mattered little what army made the initial march into the city.

On April 25, the Allied drives from east and west across Germany were brought to a climax by a junction of the Russians and the Americans near the Elbe. In late March the tanks of the Red Army again had begun to roll forward on the Oder River front, in East Prussia, and in Hungary. By March 30, the southern army had invaded Austria, and two weeks later it was in Vienna. On April 9 Koenigsberg, chief city of East Prussia, had fallen after a bloody siege. The bitter house-to-house battle for Berlin had started when Zhukov's army had battered its way into the German capital on April 21. Now at last on April 25, when a patrol of the American Sixty-ninth Division made contact with the Russians at Torgau, the Reich was cut in two.

The distintegration of German resistance thereafter was incredibly rapid. Rumors that the Nazi war lords had prepared a "national redoubt" by shifting men and materials to the Alpine fastnesses of Southern Germany had been in circulation for months; and the Allied press had warned the public to expect a long "campaign of the pockets" against Nazi fanatics. The charge of the Third Army along the Danube toward a junction with the Russians and the invasion of Austria from Italy ended any plans for a last-ditch stand the Nazis may have formulated. The battle of the pockets was never fought, for once the surrender of the German armies began, the collapse became general.

The mass capitulation began in Italy. Suddenly in mid-April the Allied armies in Italy, accustomed to measuring progress in yards, began to gather momentum as they pushed down from the Apennines. Once on the plains of the Po Valley, the victory offensive swept all German opposition aside. Bologna fell on April 21, and the attack became a pursuit. Milan was occupied and then Turin, Genoa, and Venice. Allied armor reached out through the north of Italy to cut off the enemy's lines of retreat, and with that the confused Germans lost all their fight. On April 29, General Heinrich von Vietinghoff, Kesselring's successor as the German commander, formally surrendered, and his army of nearly a million men laid down their arms. The Battle of Italy begun three years before was at an end.

The following day, April 30, the Hamburg radio made a "grave and important announcement" that underlined the German collapse: Adolf Hitler had died. The manner in which the Fuehrer met death remains a matter of conjecture; the reports emanating from Europe variously described cerebral hemorrhage, suicide, assassination, and an exploding shell as the cause. Hitler's body was never found, and as a consequence many believe that he made good his escape. Others, with less reason, think that he actually perished in the bomb plot of the previous year. Whatever the truth of the mysterious passing of Hitler might be, it was certain that as a political force he was dead, and his tomb was the shambles of his shattered Germany. The regrettable feature surrounding his demise, as far as history is concerned, is that the way to the writing of a new legend was opened by the uncertainties regarding Hitler's end. Inevitably Hitler will be "recognized" in Seattle or Buenos Aires before many years, and myths will be perpetuated about him. Some double may even make a tour in a side show.

Grand Admiral Karl Doenitz assumed control of Germany upon Hitler's death and made overtures to the western Allies for a surrender. Eisenhower, however, refused to listen to the Nazi pleas, insisting that the Soviet Union be included in all conferences. While Doenitz delayed, trying to avoid yielding to the fearsome Russians, the capitulation of the surrounded German armies continued. Berlin fell on May 2. On May 4 more than a million Nazi troops in Holland, Denmark, and the northwestern section of Germany gave up to General Montgomery. On the following day several hundred thousand yielded to General Devers in Austria. The deaths of famous Axis leaders became commonplace: Mussolini was lynched by Italians; Goebbels and Himmler committed suicide. Doenitz scarcely had anything left to surrender.

The German capitulation was signed on May 7. A small trade-school building in Rheims, in a France that had arisen from her humiliation of 1940, was chosen as the place for the signing of the final documents. After several days of preliminaries, the enemy representatives, General Alfred Jodl, German chief of staff, and Admiral Georg von Friedeberg, head of the Nazi navy, affixed their signatures to papers that called for unconditional surrender. Upon turning the document over to General Walter B. Smith, General Jodl spoke these words: "With this signature the German people and the German armed forces are, for better or worse, delivered into the victors' hands. In this war, which has lasted more than five years, both have achieved and suffered more than perhaps any other people in the world. In this hour I can only express the hope that the victors will treat them with generosity." No reply was made. General Smith had already given assurance that after the Germans had laid down their arms that the Allies would act in accordance with the dictates of humanity; further generosity was not guaranteed.

The cease-firing order was issued on May 8, and that date was generally accepted in the United States and England as the concluding day of the struggle. Since Field Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, chief of the German High Command, did not sign surrender terms with the Russians until May 9, the Soviet Union looks to a different victory date. Actually desultory fighting by Nazi units in Czechoslovakia and belated capitulations there and elsewhere caused the war to drag on until the middle of May. General Eisenhower's simple words in his cable from Rheims, however, can be taken as the effective last words for the European struggle: "The mission of this Allied force was fulfilled at 0241 local time, May 7, 1945."

As the combined armies of occupation moved into Germany, a dazed Europe tried to resume some appearance of a normal existence. At first the people could only look with bewilderment at the ruins of their civilization. Many noble cities were damaged beyond repair. The total of the dead was still unreckoned. Europe had experienced many wars in its history. Europeans could but wonder whether the continent could stand another such as the Second World War.

For Americans too the war in Europe had been costly. They had paid heavily with blood and dollars for "V-E Day," and no amount of victory could dim the fact that scores of thousands of Americans had lost their lives in defeating Italy and Germany. Among the deaths was one that occurred in Warm Springs, Georgia, on April 12, 1945. The New York *Post* placed this announcement at the head of its Army-Navy casualty and next-of-kin list for April 13: "Roosevelt, Franklin D., Commander in Chief, wife, Mrs. Anna Eleanor Roosevelt, the White House."

CHAPTER XIV

Japan Revisited

President Harry S. Truman, the successor to President Roosevelt, told the American people in his V-E Day Proclamation that the defeat of Germany was not an occasion for celebration: "Much remains to be done. The victory won in the west must now be won in the east. The whole world must be cleansed of the evil from which half the world has been freed." The common feeling was that prolonged cheering was scarcely in order while Americans were dying on Pacific battlefields. The nation wasted little time, therefore, in effecting a redeployment of troops and interests from Europe to Asia.

While the struggle in Europe had occupied most of the attention of military leaders and publicists, the Pacific conflict had by no means been neglected. The campaign of the islands had produced no single, climactic D-Day comparable to Normandy's, but from June 6, 1944, to May 8, 1945, many D-Days had come and gone in the Southwest and Central Pacific; and the beaches won on those invasion days contributed in their smaller way to ultimate victory just as surely as did the Utah and Omaha Beaches on the other side of the world. The men that had engineered the climb up the Solomons and the drive through the Central Pacific had not rested on their laurels between D-Day and V-E Day. New Georgia and Bougainville and Tarawa and Kwajalein were springboards, not stopping points.

In the middle of June, 1944, at the very moment the Allies were making secure their beachheads on the Norman coast, a succession of heavy blows began to rain upon the Japanese Empire, attacks that were to bring the war into the inner circle of Nipponese defenses. It was at that time that regular long-range raids on the Japanese home islands began to be made by a new American bomber, the B-29 "Superfortress." The flights of these giants of the air carrying huge loads of bombs to Japan represented a remarkable advance since that day two years before that Doolittle's planes had made their one raid on Tokyo. The Superfortresses heralded the defeat of Japan just as surely as the thousand-plane sweeps over Germany spelled doom to the Third Reich.

These great ships of the new United States Twentieth Army

Bomber Command first flew from bases in China, and they selected as their initial target Yawata, the "Pittsburgh of Japan," home of the imperial steel works. The official announcement described the bombing of Yawata as "accurate and effective," but the extent of the damage done was unimportant by comparison with the experimental values obtained from the attack. After Yawata it was known that any other Japanese home city could be bombed. Bases closer than the interior of China were the only requisites lacking to make the Celestial Empire uninhabitable.

The invasion of Saipan took place on June 15 after five days of softening of the islands by air and naval bombardment. Well-coordinated raids on island groups throughout the Pacific helped to keep the Japanese guessing as to the point selected for a landing, and strikes at islands in the vicinity of the Marianas made them virtually isolated during the period of the attack. The Fifth Fleet of Admiral Spruance, spearheaded by Admiral Mitscher's Task Force 58, had charge of the operation, while General Holland M. Smith's Fifth Amphibious Corps made the landings. General Smith drew his assault troops from General Thomas E. Watson's Second Marine Division and General Harry Schmidt's Fourth Marine Division. The Army's Twenty-seventh Division, commanded by General Ralph Smith, was held in reserve.

The southwest corner of Saipan was selected for the landings, and the first waves of invaders got ashore without undue trouble; but stubborn resistance from the Japanese developed when the Marines began to push inland from the beaches. The Twenty-seventh Infantry Division, therefore, was sent ashore much sooner than had been expected. What followed proved to be the bloodiest fighting in the Pacific since Tarawa. Nearly four weeks were needed to rout the Japanese from the caves and underground hide-outs that honeycombed the island. Not until after the last mountain and ravine had been cleared of all the die-hard defenders, who again engaged in a final banzai death charge, could Saipan be considered as safely won. The Japanese commanding officer, Admiral Chuichi Nagumo, who had been at the head of the fleet that bombed Pearl Harbor, committed suicide, and his example was followed by many among the civilian inhabitants of the island. The Americans counted 3,426 killed and 13,099 wounded, while Japanese casualties included 29,747 killed or captured.

The battle for Saipan was marked by a change of command during the heat of the fighting that was provocative of speculation and criticism. The Army's General Ralph Smith was relieved of his command over the Twenty-seventh Division upon orders of General Holland Smith of the Marines. From the conflicting versions of the incident given out by the Army and the Marine Corps, it appears that General Ralph Smith's cautious tactics wore upon "Howlin' Mad" Smith's nerves and brought about a change in generals. The basic issue of whether the hard-driving of the Marines was more wasteful of men than the slower methods of the Army still remains a matter of debate. The Smith *versus* Smith affair simply bore witness to the friction existing between the various branches of the military establishment.

From Saipan the Second and Fourth Marine Divisions moved to nearby Tinian. Landings were made on the northern end of the island on July 24, and by August 1 the troops had worked their way to the southern coast. During that week 314 Americans were killed and 1,515 wounded. Enemy casualties were reported to be 6,939 dead and 500 captured. Most important was the acquisition of the elaborate Ushi air base used by the Japanese hitherto as a stepping stone to the south, but thereafter available for bomber flights against Japan's home islands.

Meanwhile the battle for Guam had begun. Seventeen days had been spent by planes and warships in plastering the island with explosives. The Navy had fired some 10,000 tons of shells at the beaches before the Third Marine Division went ashore on the morning of July 21. Beachheads were easily established above and below Port Apra, the Japanese as usual electing to wait and make a fight of it in the interior. The struggle for Guam was another blowtorch operation, a step-by-step examination of each place of concealment and the extermination of the tenacious foe. On Orote Peninsula, at Mount Tenjo, and at Mount Santa Rosa, the Japanese made determined stands, but at last they were beaten down by the Americans. Under the command of General Roy S. Geiger of the Marine Corps, the Army's Seventy-seventh Division and the Marine's Third Division proved that coordination between the two services was possible by functioning without friction as a team.

Japanese resistance on Guam was pronounced at an end on August 10, but 12 months later searching parties were still looking for holdouts. Over 10,000 enemy dead had been counted and only 86 prisoners. Then a message went out to Pearl Harbor: "This news is from Radio Guam. Nothing heard from you since 1941. Greetings." It was the radioman's way of saying that this island, the first United States territory to be seized by Japan, was back in American hands.

Meanwhile the fight for a foothold in the Marianas had been supplemented by a remarkable naval engagement. Since Saipan and Guam were within the inner defense circle of Japan, it had been anticipated that the Imperial Navy would again be compelled to show itself; and this premise had been borne out shortly before the invasions began by the announcement from Radio Tokyo that "the Japanese Navy in the near future will win a great naval victory in the Central Pacific." Clearly the Japanese were going to give battle, probably in the expectation that the Americans would be so far removed from their base that they would be in no position to counterattack because of a shortage of fuel and ammunition.

While Admiral Mitscher and Task Force 58 were *en route* to Saipan, Japanese reconnaissance planes on June 10 had spotted the fleet. The first preparatory bomber strike at the Marianas had been intended for June 12, but Mitscher had picked up speed and had arrived in time to hit Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam a day ahead of schedule. In this way the Japanese were prevented from making use of the warning given by their observers. Japanese rescue planes had not yet arrived from the north when the American attack on the island air strips started, and squadrons from the *Hornet* and the *Essex* were able to knock out 124 Japanese aircraft that day.

American observers were also on the alert, and fleet commanders now began to receive reports regarding the movements of the Japanese force. On June 12 a submarine sent word that the Japanese fleet had been sighted south of the Philippines heading north. Again just after midnight on June 18, Commander Herman J. Kossler of the submarine *Cavalla* sighted the Nipponese. He reported that he had stayed submerged for over an hour as the enemy ships passed over him; there had been too many vessels for an accurate estimate of the size of the fleet to be made. At that time the Japanese were making straight for the Marianas, 700 miles away.

That gave Admiral Spruance the rest of the day to make his plans for the impending battle. In reply to a question from Mitscher, the Fifth Fleet Commander directed that the Americans avoid an engagement with the enemy fleet when it came within range that night; too many risks were involved, he felt, in a night battle of carriers. Spruance also refused Mitscher's request that the carriers be permitted to move out to meet the enemy, for he felt that the Saipan landing might thereby be endangered. The principal assignment for the Fifth Fleet was to support the forces on Saipan, and Spruance wanted nothing, not even the prospect of dealing roughly with the Japanese fleet, to jeopardize the island invasion. Critics who have questioned the admiral's strategy say that his caution cost Mitscher a complete victory over the enemy, but it is by no means certain that any other course would have assured equal protection to the divisions on Saipan.

The First Battle of the Philippine Sea began then on June 19. That morning scouting planes were sent out in a vain search for the Japanese fleet, and as the American carriers waited, their decks crowded with planes loaded with bombs and ammunition, word was flashed that a Japanese airforce was on the way. The Nipponese planes had flown in from nine carriers with the intention of striking at the American ships and then refueling in the Marianas. With the support of land-based planes from Guam and Rota, the Japanese armada numbered perhaps as many as 600 planes. The United States carrier commanders hurried their planes into the air, even the bombers that had no place in particular to go, because almost any enemy hit on a bomb-laden flight deck would have been disastrous. By accident as much as design, the bombers, seeking something to do, made runs over the air strips on Guam, wrecking them and making landings virtually impossible. This proved to be a tremendously effective means of dealing with the Japanese planes, for refueling was made a hazardous venture and the enemy had to refuel.

Shortly before 11 o'clock, the two air forces met head-on far to the west of Guam. The Japanese apparently were determined to disregard all losses and fight their way through the protecting screen to the ships in Mitscher's task force. For three hours the Japanese kept coming; wave after wave of the planes of the Rising Sun were beaten down before they began to veer off toward their landing strips on Guam. There, however, American bombers were waiting, and the Nipponese found that they had little chance of reaching their runways. Those that got close enough to land crashed into the bomb craters with which the airfields were covered. Many of the Japanese pilots just flew around helplessly until their gas ran out; then they fell, some into the sea and others onto the coral beaches.

It was a massacre. The Americans were better pilots; they outnumbered the enemy; they were flying superior planes. Japanese designers had sacrificed protective plating for speed, and the battle of June 19 demonstrated the folly of that choice. Only 18 Japanese planes were able to break through to the American fleet, and of these 12 were brought down by anti-aircraft fire from the ships. Two torpedoes came close to the *Lexington*, and superficial damage was done by a bomb hit on the *Indiana*. In protecting the ships, the American airmen lost 27 planes while administering a stunning defeat to the enemy airforce. The official United States Navy count of 404 Japanese planes destroyed reads like a propaganda story when a comparison of the losses of the opposing forces is made, but the amazing total stood the test of later checking. Navy men called it the "Marianas turkey shoot."

Next Task Force 58 went after the Japanese ships. Searching

planes continued to prowl over the Philippine Sea for two days, but it was mid-afternoon of July 20 before the enemy fleet could be located. The report came finally that the Japanese were midway between Saipan and the Philippines, some 700 miles to the west. For Mitscher it was a difficult matter to decide. Not many hours of daylight remained, and in the darkness the planes would be hard-pressed to get back safely. The distance to the enemy fleet made it problematical whether gasoline supplies would last. Yet the hope of sinking a large part of the Japanese force led Mitscher to give orders for his planes to get under way.

Part Two of the First Battle of the Philippine Sea took place in the gathering twilight of June 20. The semi-darkness made visibility poor and identification problematical, and these factors caused a variety of conflicting reports of the action to be turned in by the pilots. Consequently neither the size of the enemy fleet nor the amount of damage inflicted on it ever was accurately determined. Probably as many as four battleships, six carriers, and an assortment of cruisers, destroyers, and tankers were on hand when the Hellcats, Helldivers, and Avengers came swarming down. The score on hits, at a conservative estimate, ran to one carrier, one destroyer, and two tankers sunk and one battleship, four carriers, three cruisers, two destroyers, and two tankers damaged. Twenty-six enemy planes were added to the grand total of the two-day battle.

"Now we all have a 25 per chance of getting back," one of the pilots said just before the attack on the ships began. This was a too-pessimistic prediction, but the homeward journey in the moonless night to carriers hard enough to land on in the light of day would certainly not be easy. The gauges of the gasoline tanks were almost at the empty mark on all the planes by the time the carriers were reached, and many of the motors died for want of fuel before a landing could be made. On board the *Lexington*, Admiral Mitscher again faced a momentous decision as the time drew near for the planes to return. Commander Gus Widhelm had recommended to Mitscher that he turn on the lights to guide the homing pilots. That move would save the pilots, but it might also bring enemy submarines and thus endanger all the ships and thousands of lives. Ordinarily a match would not be lighted in those waters. But now radio calls began to be heard: "Yorktown, where are you please? Must land soon, have no gas left." Mitscher turned on the lights: deck lights, searchlights, star shells, a regular riot of lights.

The pilots had no time for circling, so orders went out that planes should land on the first available carrier. In the scramble to land, the control officers were not always obeyed; two planes sometimes came in at once; anxious pilots cut in too quickly. Many crashes occurred on deck, and many planes fell into the ocean. "It was an evening of sheer horror for the vast majority of the men in the returning planes," Gilbert Cant writes in *The Great Pacific Victory*, "and for those responsible for getting them safely down on a flat-top's deck. But when it was over, the cost of the mission was not excessive, and Mitscher's daring in turning on the lights had been amply justified." Ninety-five planes had been lost in the raid on the enemy fleet, either by enemy action or by forced landings, but from these planes 49 of the pilots and crew members were rescued.

The First Battle of the Philippine Sea was no Midway, but the two days of fighting did constitute a victory of major importance. The destruction of the enemy's planes in the "turkey shoot" made secure the landings on Saipan and assured success to the venture into the Marianas. Air bases on Saipan and Guam put Tokyo within easy reach of the Superfortresses, and thereafter no spot within the Japanese home islands was safe from bomber attack. The general effect of the battle on the enemy's naval strength is thus set forth by Fletcher Pratt in his *Fleet Against Japan*: "By getting an early start, by skimping every other type of naval construction and carefully husbanding their resources, by avoiding any but a decisive battle, the Japanese had managed to assemble a carrier fleet with accompanying pilots . . . not far from equal to our own. It had been blown to fragments in two days. . . . As a result of these two days, Japan no longer had a naval air service." Nor could the Japanese disguise their concern over the defeat; forthwith the cabinet was reorganized and Premier Hideki Tojo was swept from his high office.

When in August, 1944, the Navy completed its conquest of the Marianas, the way at last opened for a merging of the Nimitz and MacArthur strategies. Twenty thousand men were set to work preparing Guam as a naval station, and before the end of the year Admiral Nimitz announced that he was ready to move his headquarters. Guam obviously was no ordinary coral island; it was a potential base that could put the Navy in the thick of the war. Moreover it was only 700 miles from the Philippines. The next move for the Navy then was in the direction toward which General MacArthur had been pointing for years. Almost in spite of themselves the admiral and the general were now compelled to admit they were fighting on the same side of the same war. Thereafter they displayed a surprising degree of cooperativeness in their mutual enterprise.

Heretofore the progress of General MacArthur in the Southwest Pacific, as he had repeatedly sought to make plain to all concerned, had been painfully slow. With the neutralizing of the Japanese bases at Rabaul and Kavieng by the seizure of the Green and Admiralty Islands, his advance could begin to be more rapid; but now with the destruction of the enemy carriers and planes in the Philippine Sea, the time schedule for the return to the Philippines was speeded up beyond all expectation. Only a few more moves in New Guinea and its neighboring islands would be necessary to lay the Philippines open to invasion.

The long campaign for New Guinea was brought to a close in August of 1944. The jungle battle that had begun in 1942 at Port Moresby had been dishearteningly slow. In turn Buna, Gona, Lae, Salamaua, Nassau Bay, and Finschhafen had been won to pave the way for the final drive. Then as 1944 opened General MacArthur initiated a new type of leapfrog strategy; in his moves up the New Guinea coast, he avoided the areas where the Japanese had great bodies of troops, jumping past them to points ever closer to the Philippines. MacArthur's tactics left heavy enemy concentrations in his rear, especially at Wewak and around Geelvink Bay, but control of the air and the seas made the Allied positions secure. The Allied series of jumps included Sidor in January, Hollandia, Aitape, and Madang in April; Wakde and Biak Islands in May; and Noemfoor and Sansapor in July. The seizure of Sansapor put the American and Australian forces at the tip of the Vogelkop Peninsula, squarely on the "bird's head" of the big island. Among the United States Army divisions that had participated in the 1,200-mile drive were the Sixth, the Twenty-fourth, the Thirty-second, the Forty-first, and the Forty-third. The casualty score shows the unequal nature of the struggle; the Allies lost 662 dead and 63 missing and the Japanese 24,941 dead and 2,855 prisoners. Few campaigns in history have been conducted with a greater economy of life than MacArthur's New Guinea hops.

Two small islands now had to be taken to complete the preparatory moves preliminary to the invasion of the Philippine Islands. The Japanese bases in the Palau Islands represented a threat to the Allied flank, and at Halmahera in the Molucca Islands the Japanese possessed a garrison that stood between New Guinea and the Philippines. Palau had to be reduced, but Halmahera could be by-passed by the capture of Morotai, weakly defended by comparison with Halmahera.

The first two weeks of September, 1944, were spent in clipping the wings of the Japanese throughout the islands around or near the Philippine Sea. The carriers of the Third Fleet, now commanded by Admiral William F. Halsey, ranged far and wide striking at enemy ships, planes, and air strips in the Bonins, the Volcanos, the Philippines, the Moluccas, at Yap, Celebes, and Ceram. The airmen in those great sweeps sank or damaged 173 Japanese vessels and destroyed 501 planes. After those raids the enemy forces at Morotai and Palau, once the invasions started, could expect little aid and few reinforcements from their nearby bases.

American landings were made on September 15 both on Morotai and in the Palau Archipelago. Special assault troops of the Thirty-first and Thirty-second Divisions found Morotai easy, for the Japanese made no effort to defend the beaches. The only American casualty suffered in establishing the beachhead was when an officer slipped on a coral reef and broke his leg. Within two hours, General MacArthur had gone ashore from the *Nashville*, and Morotai was pronounced secure. Then the fighting started. Japanese raiding parties, many of them from adjacent Halmahera, kept up the struggle until January of 1945. Nevertheless, the Morotai landings had served their purpose in the first few days; the strong Halmahera Japanese base had been nullified and no longer stood as an obstacle to MacArthur's journey northward.

The struggle for the Palau Islands proved to be much more bitterly contested than was Morotai. The Palaus were a major Japanese base, "the spigot of our oil barrel," they called them, and as was to be expected the large enemy forces there were firmly planted. The American plan of attack contemplated no collision with strong forces; it was felt that the seizure of two of the small Palau Islands, Peleliu and Anguar, would be sufficient to the needs of the campaign. From their air strips American bombers could patrol the other Palaus, and thus all of this great enemy station would be rendered impotent.

Admiral Theodore S. Wilkerson had command of the tremendous amphibious force that made the attack on Peleliu. There were only 12 square miles in Peleliu; little of the island could have gone untouched by the eight days of aerial bombing and the three days of ship bombardment. Yet when General William H. Rupertus and the First Marine Division stormed to the shore, the Japanese, over 8,000 strong, swarmed out of their caves and pillboxes to give battle. The shelling had cleared the beaches for the landings, but once ashore the Marine and Army units found the enemy, badly underestimated in all reconnaissance reports, far tougher than had been anticipated. Three Japanese counterattacks with tanks and mortar fire had to be beaten off before the beachheads could be considered safely won.

Peleliu, Anguar, and several of the smaller Palaus were taken, but the Japanese never seemed to know when they were beaten. Two days after the landing at Peleliu, the Eighty-first Division,

under General Paul J. Mueller's command, was sent against Anguar; that island was taken without undue trouble or loss. Then a part of the Eighty-first had to hurry over to Peleliu to help the hard-pressed Marines who were by that time engaged in a fight for an escarpment of hills they called "Bloody Nose Ridge." That costly battle, in which the Marines' First Regiment saw two-thirds of their men either killed or wounded, was one of the worst of the Pacific war. Four weeks were needed to break down the resistance of the Japanese, and the dynamiting of the caves went on for months longer. Nearly 12,000 enemy dead were counted in the Palaus, as against Marine and Army casualties numbering 1,105 killed and 6,439 wounded.

According to the American blueprint for the war against Japan, the reduction of the Palaus was scheduled to be followed by a jump to the Talaud Islands and the island of Yap. General George C. Marshall in his *Biennial Report* for 1945 gives an interesting account of how this plan was changed at the last minute. The discovery was made in the course of a series of strikes in the Philippines by Admiral Mitscher's carriers that the southern and central islands of the Philippine group were weakly defended. Few Japanese Zeroes took to the air over Mindanao to oppose the American airmen as they bombed and strafed five airfields and set fire to 68 planes. The Navy's planes and warships joined in an attack on Japanese coastal shipping, and together they sank 49 cargo vessels and 37 sampans.

Immediately Halsey sent a message to Nimitz recommending a revision of the plans for the Philippine campaign. Halsey urged that the intermediate attacks on Yap and Talaud be dropped, and he suggested that an immediate move into the Philippines be made. Instead of an invasion of the southern island of Mindanao, he advocated landings on the central island of Leyte. In his opinion the Japanese had shown that they were unprepared to offer effective resistance at that time; further delay might give Japan sufficient opportunity to strengthen its defenses. Nimitz forwarded Halsey's communication to his superiors who at that moment were in session at Quebec with the Combined Chiefs of Staff of the Allies. General Marshall and his colleagues thereupon requested MacArthur to express his views on the proposal, and MacArthur promptly endorsed the new strategy. The Quebec conference then granted its permission to the moving up of the date for the return to the Philippines from December 20 to October 20.

Hasty rearrangements now had to be effected to make ready for the early attack on Leyte. First the little undefended atoll of Ulithi was occupied on September 21 in order to render Yap useless to the Japanese. Next Halsey flew to Morotai and conferred with MacArthur, and agreements were reached for a number of shifts in military and naval units. With the concurrence of Nimitz, Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid's Seventh Fleet, which had for some time been assigned to MacArthur to support his Southwest Pacific campaign, was augmented by a large number of warships. The cooperation of Halsey's Third Fleet was also promised for the first phase of the Philippine invasion. Troops of the Central Pacific Command were turned over to MacArthur; these included the Seventh, Seventy-seventh, and Ninety-sixth Divisions. This meant that the Seventh and Ninety-sixth Divisions which already had sailed from Hawaii to take part in the strike at Yap had their destination changed *en route*.

The return to the Philippines called for the use of 17 divisions, the largest army to be assembled by the United States in the Pacific. In order to gather equipment ahead of schedule for such a force, every supply base had to be combed; the waters around beaches already left far behind were explored for landing craft abandoned in invasions carried out many months before. MacArthur and Nimitz had known that this enormous task of patchwork and salvage would have to be done, and yet their confidence that the job would be completed on time had prompted them to accept the October date. They made their decision and saw to it that the new deadline was met. "It was a remarkable administrative achievement," General Marshall recorded in his report.

The blasting of Japanese targets was continued until the day of the invasion. General George C. Kenney's Far Eastern Air Force and General William H. Hale's Seventh Air Force struck with increasing fury at air bases in Celebes, Borneo, the Bonins, and the Volcanos. Particular attention was paid to the chain of islands between Japan and the Philippines, islands that might serve as a staging area for ships and planes that could deliver supplies and ward off attack upon the Empire's holdings in the south. Marcus Island, only 1,200 miles south of Tokyo, was raked by shells from the battle fleet, and in their turn the Ryukyus, Luzon, and Formosa were subject to the bombing of the Navy's carrier planes.

The last week before American forces pushed into Leyte Gulf saw especially significant blows delivered to the Japanese. On October 10, Miyako and Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands were raided by Mitscher's planes; there within 270 miles of Japan's home islands, the Navy airmen accounted for 82 enemy planes, a destroyer, four submarines, 13 cargo ships, and 68 other vessels. On the next day, a glancing slap at Aparri on Northern Luzon revealed that the Japanese were still unprepared for invasion. Then on October 12, a smashing attack was directed against one of the enemy's greatest strongholds, Formosa; 97 defending planes were shot down, 124 others were destroyed before they got off the ground, 16 cargo vessels were knocked out, and all the island's installations were battered. For five days Formosa was subjected to continuous raids, with Superfortresses flying over from China to add their bomb loads to the impressive total that rained down on the big base. Altogether 670 enemy planes were destroyed during that important week, and the result was that the Philippines were virtually isolated. Less than a hundred American planes were lost in achieving this objective; the major damage suffered by the raiders consisted of torpedo hits against two cruisers, the *Canberra* and the *Houston*.

Meanwhile a massive amphibious force had been gathering on the coast of New Guinea and at bases in the Admiralties. Finally on October 17, the first American contingent ventured into the chosen area of attack in the Philippines, at Leyte Gulf. In a heavy downpour which heralded the beginning of the monsoon season, ships bearing the Sixth Battalion nosed into the gulf, and the members of that unit landed on the island of Dinagat. Other patrols occupied nearby Homonhon and Suluan. With these islands which guarded the mouth of Leyte Gulf safely under American control, an easy access to the island of Leyte was assured. To make doubly sure that nothing would go wrong, minesweepers went to work in the gulf clearing the way to the shore; nearly 200 mines were removed in a two-day period.

Yet when the main body of the American invasion forces arrived in Leyte Gulf, the Japanese were still not certain that the move in that direction was not a feint. Japan's leaders felt that Mindanao was MacArthur's real objective, and reinforcements were poured into that island even after the fight for Leyte had begun. The Japanese could not believe that the large southern island would be by-passed in favor of the small central one. Not until the Americans had been safely ashore for a week did the Japanese start moving fresh troops toward Leyte. It was a miscalculation that was of inestimable value to the invaders.

On October 19, 1944, an American flotilla of 750 vessels bore down upon the Philippines. The fleet units had come from bases that stretched from Pearl Harbor to New Guinea, and they had joined 450 miles out in the Philippine Sea. The *California*, the *Mississippi*, the *Maryland*, the *Pennsylvania*, the *Tennessee*, and the *West Virginia*, some of them bearing scars suffered at Pearl Harbor, were the most powerful of the warships; while carriers, destroyers, transports, cargo ships, and amphibious craft made up the rest of the armada. The planes of 18 escort carriers of the Seventh Fleet furnished the air cover over the beaches, and outside Leyte Gulf Halsey's great Third Fleet stood ready to meet any Japanese naval threat.

At dawn on October 20 the final pre-invasion barrage opened; this and earlier bombardments hurled 9,600 tons of explosives against the weak enemy defenses of Leyte. As a result the spearhead battalions of General Walter Krueger's Sixth Army had an easy time getting ashore. Two beachheads were quickly taken over, one near Tacloban and the other near Dulag. The First Cavalry Division, minus its horses, and the Twenty-fourth Division made the Tacloban assault, and the Seventh and Ninety-sixth Divisions struck at Dulag; by October 25 the two beachheads had been expanded until they had become a single united front. Casualties were light and progress rapid along the entire coastal area.

Four hours after the initial landings, General MacArthur left the cruiser *Nashville* and went shoreward in a motor launch. Close in he jumped into the water and waded ashore. To his chief of staff, General Richard K. Sutherland, he remarked, "Believe it or not, we're here." Yet before a microphone, he chose more dramatic words. "This is the Voice of Freedom," he began, using a phrase from the last broadcasts from Corregidor before it fell. "People of the Philippines, I have returned. By the grace of Almighty God, our forces stand again on Philippine soil. . . . Rally to me. . . . Let every arm be steel. The guidance of Divine God points the way. Follow in His name to the Holy Grail of righteous victory." When MacArthur proclaimed "I have returned," he fulfilled a promise made over two years before. His choice of pronouns was resented by Navy men and by others who had helped put him on Leyte, but none could deny that in many ways it was a personal triumph. The first person singular was not wholly unjustified.

Neither Japan's army nor its navy proposed to allow the United States to reenter the Philippines without a contest. The enemy's naval commanders in particular could not ignore this challenge to their might, this encroachment upon their domain of raw materials. The Philippines stood astride the Japanese route to the oil and rubber of the southern isles, and the Imperial Navy would be well-nigh helpless without the stolen resources of the East Indies. Further postponement of a show-down with the American fleet was pointless, and Admiral Soemu Toyoda now determined to commit most of his ships in a do-or-die battle. The engagements of Guadalcanal had been piecemeal affairs into which the Japanese had sent only a few vessels at a time, and the First Battle of the Philippine Sea had been an attempt to win a cut-rate victory with planes rather than ships. Heretofore nothing risked had meant nothing gained and a great deal lost, and Toyoda made up his mind to try a different strategy. For the first time since Midway, a force comprising most of Japan's naval strength would give battle.

The Japanese had no intention of trying hara-kiri on a grand scale with their fleet. Toyoda's plan of battle was well conceived; the time and place and tactics chosen for the engagement were as good as geography and circumstances afforded. The Imperial Commander held back until he was certain that Leyte was the principal American objective, and then he launched his attack so that full advantage could be taken of the early confusion at the beachhead. Since the Japanese warships could not swing south of the Philippines for fear of running into General Kenney's planes from Morotai, Toyoda ordered his ships to move eastward and squeeze through the narrow waterways of the central Philippine Islands. Two Japanese columns were to converge upon Leyte Gulf from the north and the south; one would pass through the Sibuyan Sea and the San Bernardino Strait and the other through the Mindanao Sea and the Surigao Strait. Still a third force would drive southward from Formosa to engage the carriers in Halsey's Third Fleet. The Japanese intended at least to knock out the transports in Leyte Gulf; they held some hope of inflicting enough damage on the American fleet to be able to isolate MacArthur and his divisions on the beachheads.

Toyoda's plans, however, had several fatal weaknesses. A basic mistake was the assumption that three sizeable naval forces could travel great distances and maneuver and fight their way through a complex of islands and arrive at an appointed place on time. Too many details had to mesh for a complete success to be assured, and a single misfire could endanger the whole project. That point was demonstrated during the battle when Japanese land-based planes failed to give the warships the full measure of air support required, and the surface vessels were subjected to an unexpected going-over by American bombers. Another glaring error was the miscalculation regarding the comparative power of the rival fleets in Philippine waters. The Japanese seem to have believed that they would meet an American force suffering from recent severe losses, losses that never had occurred.

A Japanese propaganda leaflet dropped among American troops on Peleliu on October 20 gives evidence of this misplaced confidence: "Do you know about the naval battle done by the American 58th Fleet at sea near Taiwan and Philippine? Japanese powerful Air Force had sank their 14 AEROPLANE CARRIERS, 4 BATTLESHIPS, 10 SEVERAL CRUISERS and DESTROYERS along with sending 1,201 SHIP AEROPLANES into the sea. From this result, we think that you can imagine what shall happen next around Palau upon you. . . . Thanks for your advice notes of surrender But we haven't any reason to surrender to those who are forced to be totally destroyed in a few days later. . . . YOU SHALL GET AN VERY STERN ATTACK! WE MEAN AN CRUEL ATTACK!" In commenting on this extraordinary document, Fletcher Pratt writes in his *Fleet Against Japan*: "This collector's item represents with fair accuracy both the information and state of mind in the Japanese camp on the day after MacArthur went ashore." The explanation for the blunder apparently lay in the reports Japan's airmen brought back from a night air battle fought on October 13 off Formosa, which the Japanese call Taiwan. Exploding planes had landed near Mitscher's ships during the course of the battle, and American observers later stated that they thought some of the United States carriers had been set on fire. Evidently Japanese pilots received a similar impression and turned in accounts that led Radio Tokyo to broadcast exaggerated claims. Admiral Toyoda had accepted these false estimates, and thus the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea was fought with the odds against him from the outset.

As the elements of the Japanese fleet began to assemble and move toward the Philippines, the commander of a United States submarine, the *Darter*, spotted them on October 23 in the South China Sea and sent out a warning of their approach. Then the *Darter* and a companion submarine, the *Dace*, struck, putting torpedoes into the cruisers *Atago*, *Maya*, and *Takao*. They sank the *Atago* and the *Maya* and sent the *Takao* limping back to Singapore with gaping holes in her side. Japanese destroyers closed in on the submarines, forcing them to run for it, and during that pursuit the *Darter* ran aground close to shore of Palawan. The entire crew of the injured sub was able to get to land, and friendly guerrillas kept them from falling into Japanese hands. That was the opening round of the battle.

Other American submarines put messages on the radio regarding the movement of the Japanese ships as they made their way through the Sibuyan Sea and the Sulu Sea, and from their reports Admiral Halsey was able to predict the course the enemy would follow. Consequently he stationed his forces so that they were able to guard the only two routes through the Philippines that afforded the Japanese an exit to the east, the Surigao Strait and the San Bernardino Strait. What followed then was not one engagement but three, or rather one great battle in three parts. The enemy's southern force was engaged in the Surigao Strait, the central force off the island of Samar after it had emerged from the San Bernardino Strait, and the northern force, when it put in its belated appearance, off Cape Engano.

The total of the Japanese warships in the Philippine Sea was impressive, but divided as they were in three groups no one group was dangerous. The southern force included two old battleships, the *Huso* and the *Yamasiro*, four cruisers, and 13 destroyers. The central force consisted of two new 40,000-ton dreadnaughts, the *Yamato* and the *Musashi*, three old battleships, the *Kongo*, the *Haruna*, and the *Nagato*, eight cruisers, and 13 destroyers. The northern column contained two hybrid battleships made over as carriers, the *Ise* and *Hyuga*, four big aircraft carriers, four cruisers, and six destroyers.

Formidable as were the three Japanese forces, they could not equal the combined might of Halsey's Third Fleet and Kinkaid's Seventh Fleet. At the time of the battle some of the ships of the Third Fleet were away taking on fuel, but it still consisted of eight fast battleships and more than that number of large carriers; and the Seventh Fleet had available its six old battleships and its small escort carriers. The carriers, the destroyers, the PT boats, and the escorts when added to the capital ships comprised an overpowering array of naval strength. The Japanese were simply outmatched.

In the morning of October 24, the great sea battle was joined when Admiral Mitscher sent out his carrier planes against the central and southern Japanese forces. Admiral Kinkaid's naval planes and some of the Army's land-based planes took part in this attack, and considerable damage was done to the two Japanese groups. Planes from the *Essex* rained bombs on the central force, and 10 hits were made against the big battleship *Musashi*. Late that afternoon planes from the *Enterprise* bombed the *Musashi* again; the dreadnaught absorbed a great many punishing blows, but at last it went down. Other hits were scored on battleships, cruisers and destroyers, and the Japanese finally turned back and headed westward. The enthusiastic reports of the American airmen represented this action as a smashing victory, and their exaggerated estimates caused Halsey to write off the enemy's central force. Subsequent events were to prove that Halsey and his observers were wide of the mark.

Meanwhile the Japanese airmen had been at work. Some 200 planes were flown down from bases on Luzon; and despite the loss of nearly half their number, they fought through to the carriers of the United States Fleet and inflicted a great deal of damage. The light carrier *Princeton* was set afire, and several cruisers and destroyers were hurt in a vain effort to save her; the fire got to her magazines, and she had to be sunk by American torpedoes. During the air battle the Japanese land-based bombers were joined by planes from the carriers of their fleet coming in from the north.

This was the first indication that there was a northern enemy force, and a scouting plane was sent out in search of the carriers; the pilot located them and his report prompted Halsey to make a quick change in tactics. The admiral, lacking full information, could only guess at the strength of Japan's northern force, and he decided that this was the enemy's main fleet. The presence of the carriers led him to believe that they were the nucleus of a strong battleship-carrier combination. He reasoned that the Japanese central force was out of the reckoning and that the southern force could be easily handled by the Seventh Fleet. He felt, therefore, that the Third Fleet could best be employed against the northern force. Consequently he took his whole Third Fleet northward.

Admiral Halsey, by pulling out with all of the modern battleships and the high-speed carriers then in Philippine waters, laid himself open to a crossfire of criticism that has raged about him since that day. He was wrong in his estimate of the size of the enemy's northern force, and he was mistaken in assuming that the central force had been eliminated. As a result he is blamed for the things that went wrong thereafter. Apparently Halsey depended on Kinkaid to establish patrols in the San Bernardino Strait, and Kinkaid for his part depended on Halsey. The strait was not patrolled. Thus when the Japanese central force again came to life and slipped through the strait, the whole Leyte Gulf area was laid open to attack, and disaster was narrowly averted. Excuses have been made for Halsey and Kinkead on the ground that a divided command was responsible for the blunder, and it is explained that Kinkead was under MacArthur rather than Halsey. Still one wonders if the two admirals were not on speaking terms; they were in the same Navy and doubtless Kinkead would have used a suggestion regarding patrols if Halsey had bothered to give one before his departure. If the two admirals had been on the alert, the division of commands should have resulted in the establishment of two watches in the San Bernardino Strait rather than none. The major share of the blame, therefore, must go to Halsey; as the senior naval officer present in the Philippines, it was his responsibility to tie together loose ends. He left the ends—and the ships in Leyte Gulf—dangling.

In contrast to the procedure at San Bernardino Strait, Surigao Strait was closely guarded. There Kinkead had stationed the six World War I battleships, the *Maryland*, the *West Virginia*, the *California*, the *Tennessee*, the *Mississippi*, and the *Pennsylvania*, together with the customary complement of cruisers and destroyers. The commander of this task force, Admiral Jesse B. Oldendorf, posted torpedo boats in the bottleneck of the strait; and thus when the southern Japanese column entered the narrow waters shortly after midnight of October 25, the PT boats gave the alarm and put all of the American crews at battle stations.

Oldendorf next demonstrated what he meant when he said that his "theory was that of the old-time gambler—never give a sucker a chance. If the Jap was sucker enough to try to come through

the Straits I wasn't going to give him a chance." The Japanese ships were ambushed. They advanced in the darkness in two columns toward the line of American vessels, and Oldendorf succeeded in performing a rare naval tactical feat of "crossing the 'T'," by means of which the Japanese became the stem and the Americans the cross-bar of a "T." A deadly cross-fire thus raked the enemy, and the Japanese commander had to order his fleet to withdraw. In executing this turn the Japanese captains, instead of wheeling together, came up to head of their column and one by one turned at the same point. That stupid maneuver enabled the American gunners to pick off the enemy ships one at a time, and the record of hits was incredibly high. In the darkness, no one could be certain of the exact amount of damage done, but it has been definitely established that both of the battleships, the *Huso* and the *Yamasiro*, and the heavy cruiser *Mogami* were sunk. Other vessels were badly hurt, and one, the cruiser *Abukuma*, was sent down by Army bombers the next day. In wiping out the Japanese southern force only one American ship, the destroyer *Grant*, was hit, and valiant crewmen managed to save her. "A dream of an action!" Oldendorf called it.

Gilbert Cant calls the contrasting engagement with the enemy's central force a nightmare. And contrary to the bad advice that Halsey had accepted from his observers, the Japanese central force still meant business. American reconnaissance planes had failed to notice that the Japanese ships, after fleeing westward following the aerial bombardment that sank the *Musashi*, had regrouped and again turned eastward. Unobserved they made their way at night into the unguarded San Bernardino Strait and without lights negotiated the waters of the treacherous channel. By that remarkable bit of navigation the enemy moved within range of the vulnerable escort carriers of the Seventh Fleet standing in front of Leyte Gulf. At dawn on October 25 the Japanese opened fire.

Escort carriers are made-over merchantmen and were never intended to be used as front-line fighting ships. Without speed and without heavy guns, they have to depend on their planes for protection. On this occasion, however, the enemy's unannounced approach caught the little carriers unprepared, and they had no opportunity to get their planes aloft before they were under attack. Yet they and their destroyer escorts were all that stood between the main Japanese task force and the transports in Leyte Gulf.

The 16 "jeep carriers" and an equal number of destroyers had been divided into three groups that stretched from north to south along Samar, an island that almost touches Leyte. Admiral C. A. F. Sprague, the commander of the northern group, was nearest to San Bernardino Strait, and he it was who first had to face the enemy's four battleships, five cruisers, and 11 destroyers. "I didn't think anything could save me," Sprague later told. The Japanese soon began to find the range; their shells containing dyes of various colors to aid in aim corrections sent up great splashes of red, orange, green, yellow, and purple close to the American ships. "My God, they're shooting at us in technicolor!" one seaman exclaimed. Sprague's destroyers did what they could to spoil the Japanese aim by laying a smoke screen, and some of them, headed by the *Johnston*, charged the enemy battleline with gunfire and torpedoes. The destroyers *Johnston*, *Hoel*, and *Roberts* were blown apart by the Japanese battleships, but their courageous action saved most of the carriers.

The carriers by no means escaped unscarred. In the three-hour attack all of Sprague's six jeeps were hurt. The *Gambier Bay* was sunk. The *Fanshaw Bay*, the *Kalinin Bay*, and the *Kitkun Bay* were hit. A near-miss weakened the frame of the *White Plains*. The *Saint-Lo* was untouched by the naval guns, but a Japanese plane from Luzon deliberately crashed into the carrier's deck, and a series of explosions sent the ship to the bottom. Yet in spite of this hail of blows, the American airmen succeeded in getting their planes into the air in the face of the shells around them, and their effective bombing finally brought the enemy to a halt.

This time the Japanese turned back for good, running north along Samar and on through San Bernardino Strait. They had come close to their objective, and but for the gallantry of Sprague's little ships the enemy giants might have done terrible damage in Leyte Gulf. The Japanese commander, however, had already lost a cruiser and a destroyer, and he did not care to wait until other units of the American fleet had closed in around him. Although he lost another cruiser before he had cleared the strait, he still could take considerable satisfaction from the results of the battle off Samar. A sailor summed up the American viewpoint thus: "This, sir, is a hell of a way to run a war."

The jeep carriers had filled the air with pleas for help from the moment that they had been surprised outside San Bernardino Strait. Their urgent appeals began to be heard by "Bull" Halsey as his Third Fleet's planes began to close with the enemy's northern force off Cape Engano. Squadrons from the *Lexington*, the *Essex*, the *Langley*, the *Hornet*, the *Wasp*, the *Enterprise*, and the *Belleau Wood* had gone out ahead of their ships just after they completed their night's run to the north. They first went after the Japanese carriers, and a series of strikes put all of them out of action: the *Zuikaku*, a large 28,800-tonner, and three light carriers, the *Zuiho*, the *Titose*, and the *Tiyoda*. The shells of an American cruiser division hurried the sinking of one of the light cruisers, and its gunfire also sank an enemy cruiser. The United States submarine *Jallao* accounted for another of the cruisers.

Two of the biggest prizes, however, got away; these were the battleship-carriers, the *Ise* and the *Hyuga*. Again Admiral Halsey had the misfortune of making a faulty decision, and that mistake explains, in part, the escape of the *Ise* and the *Hyuga*. Upon receipt of the news of the battle of the jeeps off Samar, Halsey signaled all of his eight battleships to follow his flagship, the *New Jersey*, in a hurried return journey to the south. This left only cruisers to pick off the cripples of the Japanese northern force, and they were not big enough for the job at hand. Had Halsey left only three battleships with Mitscher in the north it seems likely that the *Ise* and *Hyuga*, already limping from bomb hits, could have been sunk with ease.

As it was, Halsey arrived at San Bernardino Strait long after the Japanese had withdrawn. The mighty *New Jersey* had the privilege of giving the *coup de grace* to a floundering enemy destroyer, but otherwise Halsey would have done better to have stayed at Cape Engano. One of the strange features of the three-cornered battle was that the Third Fleet's battleships, the fastest and most powerful American vessels afloat, had virtually nothing to do with the winning of this, one of the great naval victories of history; their role was to run back and forth between the northern and central battles, always arriving too late and leaving too soon to participate in either. Some uncertainty has arisen regarding the most acceptable name for the engagement; it is variously called the "Second Battle of the Philippine Sea" and the "Battle of Leyte Gulf." The best suggestion, in view of Halsey's unusual performance, will doubtless never be made official: "The Battle of Bull's Run."

Planes and submarines continued to stalk the enemy as they retired from the Philippine Sea, and some of the straggling survivors were added to the bag of Japanese vessels. Among other laggards picked off was the redoubtable battleship *Kongo* which on November 21 went down under a torpedo attack by the submarine *Sealion II*. Yet even if those mop-up encounters are left out of the reckoning, the Japanese losses in the three rounds of the battle of October 23-26 made an impressive total: three battleships, four carriers, nine cruisers, and nine destroyers. "Never before," Fletcher Pratt writes in his *Fleet Against Japan*, "had an entire navy lost so great a proportion of its strength as the Japs did in the fighting for the Leyte Gulf." The *Princeton*, the *Johnston*, the *Hoel*, the *Roberts*, the *Gambier Bay*, and the *Saint-Lo* had been lost in a good cause. The Japanese Navy as a fighting force was virtually eliminated from the war in the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea.

The defeat of Japan's navy assured the United States of success in the invasion of Leyte and in the ultimate extermination of all of the Japanese in the Philippines. The Japanese had 260,000 men scattered through the Philippine Islands, but with Japan deprived of the ships with which to transfer them, most of these troops might as well have stayed at home. Some of them, however, were taken to Leyte while the big sea battle was in progress, and from time to time other reinforcements managed to slip past the American blockade. For the Japanese were determined to sell Leyte at a high cost; it was there that they made their most stubborn stand in the Philippines.

The surprise experienced by the Japanese at the unexpected American invasion of Leyte made them slow to react to the landing. In the first week the invaders made rapid advances on the island. Those early successes were especially gratifying to the Americans, for they were made at the expense of the hated Japanese Sixteenth Division, the victors at Bataan. The drive out of the beachheads gained so much ground that on October 29 General MacArthur announced that organized resistance on Leyte was crumbling; with two-thirds of the island overrun, the liberation of the Filipinos on Leyte, he asserted, "virtually is achieved." MacArthur, however, had greatly underestimated the staying power of his foes, for it took two more months of the hardest sort of fighting to make good the general's optimistic communique.

The commander in chief of Japan's armies stationed in the conquered southern empire was Field Marshal Hisaichi Terauchi. Terauchi now named as the defender of Leyte and the other islands of the Philippines General Tomoyuki Yamashita, one of Japan's ablest soldiers. Yamashita, the conqueror of Malaya and Singapore and Bataan, could be expected to put up a stubborn fight, and his words on leaving Tokyo indicated that he had complete confidence that he would succeed in his mission: "The only words I spoke to the British commander during the negotiations for the surrender of Singapore were: 'All I want to hear from you is "yes or no".' I expect to put the same question to MacArthur."

The transfer of Yamashita to the Philippines was the signal for the stiffening of Japanese resistance, and thereafter on Leyte American gains were measured in yards rather than miles. Japan made repeated efforts to get men and supplies ashore, and despite the heavy toll taken by American bombers and warships, enough enemy aid reached Leyte by way of the port of Ormoc to prolong the struggle. In addition, the progress of the American forces was impeded by torrential rains that turned the island into a gumbo of mud; infantrymen were caked and engineers had to use flame-

throwers to dry off air strips under construction. In forward areas supplies had to be carried by hand.

New American divisions, among them the Eleventh Airborne and the Thirty-second and the Seventy-seventh Infantry Divisions, helped bring the battle for Leyte to a close. By December 1, five airfields had been completed and land-based planes were helping the carrier planes furnish air cover for the ground troops. The blow that spelled defeat for the Japanese was delivered by the men of the Seventy-seventh Division when on December 7 they took to their boats and swung around the southern end of the island and landed near Ormoc. The capture of that port broke Japanese organized resistance, and on December 26, General MacArthur again reported that the fight for Leyte was ended except for the inevitable "minor mopping-up operations." That task was turned over to General Robert L. Eichelberger and his new Eighth Army. The total Japanese losses on Leyte were announced as 54,833 dead and 493 prisoners, as against American casualties listed as 2,623 dead, 8,422 wounded, and 172 missing.

Even before Leyte was secured, MacArthur had begun to move into other islands of the Philippines. During the first phase of the Leyte invasion, First Cavalry units crossed the narrow San Juanico Strait and occupied Samar, an island the Japanese had never bothered to garrison. Then on December 15, just before the battle for Leyte ended, an amphibious force jumped to the southwest coast of Mindoro which lay alongside the main island objective, Luzon. As the Navy began its customary pre-invasion bombardment, Filipinos ran down to the shore waving American flags; the shelling was stopped and the landings on Mindoro were made near San Jose without incident. Scattered Japanese troops were found elsewhere on the island, but no difficulty was experienced in routing them. The most severe setback suffered by American forces near Mindoro came when a typhoon sank the destroyers *Hull, Spence,* and *Monaghan* with heavy losses to their crews.

Within six days of the occupation of Mindoro air strips had been completed by the engineers. This meant that the Army could put up planes to cover any operation against Luzon and that the invasion of the key island of the Philippines could begin. The carriers of the Third Fleet thereupon launched a number of preparatory strikes, at Formosa, at ports held by Japan on the Asiatic mainland, and at Luzon itself. The destruction of hundreds of enemy planes and ships in these raids later proved an insurmountable handicap to the Japanese when they sought to get reinforcements in to Yamashita. Meanwhile on January 3 the Americans inched closer by seizing little Marinduque Island just south of Luzon.

General Krueger, whose Sixth Army drew the assignment of the assault on Luzon, elected to use the Lingayen Gulf invasion route chosen three years before by the Japanese. Krueger's choice was dictated by a desire to gain a measure of tactical surprise. The enemy knew that an invasion was coming and had every reason to expect MacArthur to use Mindoro and Marinduque for short hops across to the southern shore of Luzon. Instead the 850 ships of Admiral Kinkead's Luzon Attack Force steamed on to the north, and on January 6, 1945, began a bombardment that lasted three days. Yamashita, however, had been thrown off balance by the Mindoro and Marinduque landings, and he did not dare then or later risk pulling his forces away from the south; the enemy commander's uncertainty immobilized some 20,000 troops. Thus on Janury 9, General Innis P. Swift's First Corps, consisting of the Sixth and Forty-third Divisions, and General Oscar W. Griswold's Fourteenth Corps, composed of the Thirty-seventh and Fortieth Divisions, were landed at nominal cost. By nightfall, 68,000 men had gone ashore, and more were streaming to the beachhead.

The supporting naval units lost more heavily than did the ground forces. Here for the first time the Japanese made extensive use of a new system of aerial attack by a special suicide corps. These *Kamikaze* pilots took their name from the *Kamikaze* or "Divine Tempest" that had in earlier times scattered the ships of a fleet that threatened to attack the island empire. Stories of the existence of a corps among Japanese pilots who took a vow to give their lives for victory had been heard for two years, and an occasional episode of a plane diving into an American ship had borne witness to the truth of the reports. The *Saint-Lo* had gone down off Leyte under a lone *Kamikaze's* attack, but it was at Lingayen Gulf that the corps first turned loose in earnest. The result was that considerable damage was done to Kinkead's fleet either by pilots bent on suicide or by airmen with normal intentions. The *New Mexico,* the *California,* the *Mississippi,* and the *Columbia* were hit, with more than 130 killed and 300 wounded. The escort carrier *Ommaney Bay* was sunk, and a number of other vessels were struck.

On land, however, the enemy offered ineffectual resistance on Luzon and American units stepped up their drive on Manila at an unexpectedly rapid pace. The Japanese, in contrast to their practice on other islands of lesser importance, had installed few fortifications and those were quickly reduced. Yamashita was completely out-maneuvered; he never succeeded in unifying his forces but instead had to commit his troops piecemeal. Not until the Americans had reached Clark Field, on the outskirts of Manila, did the Japanese stiffen; but even that, the finest airfield in the Southwest Pacific, was taken after only three days. The Americans were somewhat bewildered by the enemy's do-nothing tactics. As General Eichelberger expressed it: "Those Jap generals must have gone crazy. Where in hell are they going to fight?"

The struggle for Manila opened when two new landings were made near the city. On January 29, the Twenty-fourth and Thirty-eighth Divisions of General Charles P. Hall's Eleventh Corps pushed ashore at San Narciso, north of Subic Bay, and by sealing off the Bataan Peninsula they prevented the Japanese from making use of the area where earlier MacArthur had made his prolonged last stand. Two days later another amphibious operation put the Eleventh Airborne Division on the coast at Nasugbu, across Manila Bay from Bataan, and, aided by parachute troops who seized a dominating ridge, that division moved on to the capital from the south. North of Manila the First Cavalry Division and the Thirty-seventh Infantry Division engaged in a race for the city with the First Cavalry winning by a slight margin. The first step in the liberation of the Philippine capital was the freeing of 3,700 Allied civilians who had been held prisoners in the Santo Tomas University camp.

American troops entered Manila on February 4, 1945, but the fight for the city lasted for several weeks. The Japanese holed up in the old walled section, the Intramuros, and the battle for this fortress was a building-by-building and room-by-room affair. By February 23, all organized resistance had been beaten down, but small pockets of Japanese troops still had to be eliminated. Much of the city was devastated by enemy demolition squads, but fortunately the harbor could quickly be put in order. Before February closed the first American supply ship in three years entered Manila Bay.

Only Corregidor remained in the enemy's possession in the Manila area. General Kenney's planes began the bombardment of the Rock on January 23 and in the following four weeks dropped over 3,000 tons of bombs on the little fortress. Next the fleet took over the job, and the guns on the Rock were battered into silence. Then on February 16, the troops of the 503rd Parachute Regiment jumped down on Corregidor's flat top, risking the possibility of being smashed against the steep cliffs of the island. The jump was successful, however, and the paratroopers, with the help of the Thirty-fourth Infantry Regiment, forced the Japanese to take to the tunnels. Ten days were needed to wipe out the last of the enemy; many had to be sealed up in the underground passageways. With Corregidor in American hands the conquest of Luzon could be considered complete. General Marshall's *Report* carries a pertinent comment: "In less than two months General MacArthur accomplished what the Japanese had needed six to do after Pearl Harbor."

General Yamashita, however, insisted that he had only begun to fight. Upon evacuating Manila, he announced: "At last I have MacArthur in my iron trap. I have been chasing him all over the South Seas and each time he has slipped away from me. This time it will be different, and my pleasure of a face-to-face meeting will be realized." Yamashita's bravado contained this much truth: he did intend to make a last-ditch stand wherever there were Japanese left to continue the struggle. For the United States this meant a slow grinding campaign in the hills, the swamps, the jungles of Luzon, Mindanao, Panay, Negros, and countless other islands of the archipelago. Krueger's Sixth Army, which operated principally on Luzon, and Eichelberger's Eighth Army, which concentrated on the southern islands, were still hard at it six months later.

Throughout the battle in the Philippines, the United States was aided by the efforts of the Filipinos. The Filipino troops in fact had never ceased their resistance to the Japanese invaders, and during the occupation a fierce guerrilla war had been kept alive by an underground army that was as active as any in Europe. The guerrillas had been joined by the few Americans who had escaped capture, and together they had harassed the Japanese by burning and sniping and dynamiting. They had kept in touch with MacArthur by radio, and upon his return they had arisen to take part in the fighting on Leyte and Luzon. Now in the final clean-up stage of the struggle, they proved especially useful at uprooting the die-hards among the enemy. The Filipinos by their courageous opposition to the Japanese proved beyond question their right to stand alone as an independent people.

At last on July 5, 1945, General MacArthur was able to say: "The entire Philippine Islands are now liberated and the Philippine campaigns can be regarded as virtually closed." He called it "the greatest disaster ever sustained by Japanese arms," pointing to the annihilation of 23 enemy divisions with their 409,261 dead and 9,774 prisoners. The American casualties were reported to be 11,921 killed, 401 missing, and 42,569 wounded. MacArthur's communiques usually were prone to overestimate enemy losses, and this 40-to-1 ratio of fatalities seems incredible; but even with a discount for optimism the general's phrase regarding the disaster suffered by Japan seems to be an understatement.

At the time the first troops entered Manila, MacArthur began to look ahead toward new objectives: "Japan itself is our final goal. . . . Our motto becomes 'On to Tokyo.' We are ready

in this veteran and proven command when called upon." The Navy too was eager to press on to Japan and had already picked out the next island stepping stone. For several weeks prior to the assault on Luzon, preparatory bombings of the Volcano Islands had begun, and the invasion of one of that group, Sulphur Island, had been made even before Manila fell. The Japanese call Sulphur Island "Iwo Jima;" Americans will have reason to remember those two words of an alien language if they never learn any others.

Iwo Jima lies between Tokyo and Saipan, approximately 750 miles from each. The tiny island is only five miles long and is only three miles at its widest; its area is eight square miles. Its worth in peacetime would be negligible, but in 1944 it possessed a fabulous military value. To Japan it was important as a base from which its planes could attack the Superfortresses that winged up from the Marianas to strike at the island empire. To the United States it had a double value: in American hands it would no longer be a nesting place for enemy Zeroes, and, on the positive side, its air strips would make it possible to send fighter planes along to escort the B-29s in their runs over Japan. American leaders knew that Iwo would come high; the Japanese could be depended on to part with an air base within easy range of Tokyo only with extreme reluctance. It was decided that the price must be paid: 4,630 Marines dead or missing, 19,938 wounded.

Everything possible was done to lighten the casualties. Never had the diversionary raids been more sweeping; Mitscher's carriers drove right up to Tokyo. Task Force 58 steamed under cover of bad weather within 300 miles of the Japanese capital and on February 16 and 17 gave the Tokyo area a blasting to be remembered. Nearly 1,200 carrier planes bombed the Kasumigaura naval air base, the Tachikawa army air base, aircraft fctories, shipping of all kinds. At the cost of only 49 planes, read the Navy's communique, 332 Japanese planes were knocked down, 177 planes were destroyed on the ground, an escort carrier was set on fire, and three destroyers were sunk. Later while the fight for Iwo was in progress, another carrier strike and a raid by 200 Superfortresses again plagued Tokyo.

Never had the preliminary softening up of an island been more devastating. For 72 consecutive days before D-Day, bombers of the Seventh and Twentieth Air Forces and planes from aircraft carriers had rained 5,800 tons of bombs on Iwo Jima. During the final three days before the invasion, 7,000 tons of shells were thrown at the island by the ships of the Fifth Fleet. By D-Day no less than 800 vessels were on hand at Iwo. Their tremendous bombardment rocked the little island. Yet when the assault waves of American troops touched Iwo's shores, they were met by a foe that seemed to be unaware that no living thing should still be found on the island.

The invasion of Iwo Jima began on February 19, 1945, and the campaign was officially announced at an end on March 16. In less than a month, however, the Marine invaders experienced the toughest and bloodiest fight in the history of their Corps. General Tadamichi Kuribayashi, the Japanese commander, had prepared a defense somewhat like that used at Tarawa. He had buried in the sand a maze of pillboxes so skillfully concealed that the first Marines ashore walked past them without noticing them. Further inland he had constructed among the caves an interlocking chain of underground fortifications. General Kuribayashi was quoted by Radio Tokyo as saying: "This island is the front line that defends our mainland, and I am going to die here." That attitude of desperation he communicated to the Japanese he commanded, and they became a force of 20,000 fanatics. Admiral Turner had reason to call Iwo "the most heavily fortified and capably defended island in the world."

Yet the Marines took it. The men of the Fourth and Fifth Marine Divisions led the way to the beaches and moved forward against light opposition. Not until great numbers of assault troops had pushed inland to the base of the Japanese stronghold on Mt. Suribachi did the enemy open fire; then all the guns on the heights and in the sand-covered pillboxes broke loose at once. The advance guard of Marines was caught between a searing cross-fire of machine guns, mortars, and howitzers. It seemed impossible that the invaders could hold their ground. The casualties sustained were so great that the morale of the Americans, by the reckoning of experts, should have cracked. The losses were borne; the beaches were held. The Marines at Iwo Jima demonstrated the truth of all the superlatives ever used in connection with their Corps.

Over 40,000 men were needed to subdue the Japanese on Iwo. The Third Marine Division was added to the Fourth and the Fifth in the early phase of the battle; and those three divisions, aided by tanks, heavy artillery, naval guns, and aerial bombardment, eventually cleared the island. On February 23, the Americans fought their way to the summit of Mt. Suribachi and thereby broke up the center of Japanese resistance. The stirring photograph of the raising of the flag at Suribachi became the most famous and familiar of the war pictures; carefully posed though it was, it was a dramatic portrayal of a significant event of the war. The Americans drove on to the sea, and on March 9 split the enemy's troops by reaching the shore opposite the original point of invasion. The Japanese forces were further segmented by wedges of Marines, and a slow campaign was thereafter conducted against isolated pockets. The process of extermination was pronounced complete on March 16.

The wiping out of the enemy garrison of 20,000 was only one of the offsets to the heavy casualties suffered by the Marines. In April fighter planes began to leave the airfields on Iwo to escort the B-29s on their flights over Japan, and thenceforth the big bombers were able to drop down for low-level precision bombing raids. Moreover, in the four months following the capture of Iwo Jima, 1,400 Superfortresses made emergency landings on its air strips. Those B-29s, but for the seizure of the island, might have been lost and their crews with them. The 15,000 airmen thus saved pointed up the reason that Iwo Jima was invaded. The tragedy of the battle was that so many had to die that others might live.

Iwo was a suitable air base from which to bomb Japan, but it was too small to serve as a staging area for troops Tokyo bound. The Philippines were large enough, but they were too far away. American strategists, therefore, had reached the decision that Okinawa in the Ryukyus, an island group lying immediately south of the Japanese mainland, must be taken in order to provide a large invasion base adjacent to Japan. Manila was 1,300 miles from Kyushu, the southernmost home island of Japan, while Okinawa shortened that distance by nearly a thousand miles. Within its 485 square miles Okinawa could house the troops and armaments and stores and planes needed for the assault on the Japanese homeland. Okinawa was intended by the planners to be the Britain of the Pacific.

Again the carrier planes of Task Force 58 acted as the point of the spear of invasion. For the Ryukyus operation Admiral Mitscher had 1,200 planes from the *Enterprise*, the eight large carriers of the *Essex* class, and the seven or eight light carriers of the *Independence* class. Admiral Spruance's screening ships in the Fifth Fleet included such leviathans as the *New Jersey*, the *Wisconsin*, and the *Missouri*, new battle cruisers like the *Alaska* and the *Guam*, and scores of cruisers, destroyers, and PT boats. In addition the Japanese were given a taste of what V-E Day was to mean to them by the appearance of a British task force in the vicinity of Okinawa; this British flotilla included the battleship *King George V* and four large carriers, the *Indefatigable*, the *Indomitable*, the *Victorious*, and the *Illustrious*.

The preliminary moves in the Okinawa campaign followed the familiar pattern of island warfare in the Pacific: the seizure of undefended nearby islets, diversionary aerial attacks on widely scattered targets, a protracted bombardment of the invasion beaches of the true objective, the storming of the alien shore, the easy establishment of a beachhead, the development of a bitter struggle with the attempt to move inland. This time the nearby islands seized were the tiny Keramas, only a few miles from Okinawa; they were needed for air strips in case no airfields fell readily in the Okinawa fighting. This time the American airmen ranged from Tokyo to Formosa in an effort to mislead the enemy. Nine days were spent in an intensive shelling and bombing of Okinawa's coasts, care being taken to hit all the beaches in order to prevent the Japanese from anticipating the actual landing site. Then on April 1 a fleet of more than 1,400 vessels set troops of the Tenth Army down on the western coast near the center of the island. The war had been brought to Japan's doorstep.

The new United States Tenth Army, commanded by General Simon B. Buckner, was composed of General John R. Hodge's Twenty-fourth Army Corps and General Roy S. Geiger's Third Marine Amphibious Corps. The Marines landed on the northern flank near Yontan, and the Army Corps went ashore near Kadena. These veterans of Guadalcanal and Peleliu were incredulous at the light resistance encountered in the landings. "During the first day," writes Gilbert Cant in *The Great Pacific Victory*, "the Marines had two casualties (one accident and one illness); in the first six hours of their advance, the Army troops found only 14 stray Japanese." By April 3 both the Marine and the Army Corps had reached the island's eastern coast; there the Marines turned north and by April 18 had occupied the northern half of the island. Okinawa was beginning to look like a soft touch."

None of those in the army of invasion, however, felt that Okinawa would be easily won. Japan's premier, Kuniaki Koison, had already warned his people: "The enemy now stands at our front gate. It is indeed the gravest moment in the history of our nation. . . . We must either win . . . or we shall all die." The Tokyo newspaper *Yomiuri-Hochi*, moreover, had gone so far as to say that if Okinawa could not be held, the Japanese would have "no hope of turning the course of the war." At the southern end of the island, the Japanese defenders of Okinawa at last began to act as if they too believed that the battle was important. As the Tenth Army's Twenty-fourth Corps approached Naha, the island's principal city, the enemy's resistance steadily increased, and General Hodge declared: "It is going to be really tough."

General Mitsuru Ushijima, the Japanese commander, used every resource to justify General Hodge's prediction. He had left the upper half of Okinawa, including the invasion beaches, undefended in order to keep his forces intact; he had withdrawn to the south, and there he had nearly 100,000 men, well placed and well

equipped. The enemy's line extended across the island above Naha, running through a rugged terrain of hills and cliffs and coral caves. From the heights Japanese gunners poured down a steady rain of shells upon the Americans. "The Japs," reported General Hodge, "have tremendous amounts of artillery and have used it far more intelligently than I have ever seen them use it to date." Moreover, since the front from shore to shore was scarcely more than a mile in length, the Americans had very little space in which to maneuver; in such a narrow corridor, General Buckner was never able to use his full strength to advantage. Every yard gained thereafter cost heavy casualties.

In the waters around Okinawa, the fleet supporting the invasion likewise became involved in a bitter struggle, a bizarre battle without precedent. *Kamikaze* planes had made sporadic attacks on United States ships in the Philippines, but at Okinawa the Japanese committed thousands of their *Kamikazes* to a continuous series of strikes against Allied vessels. As a variation on the earlier suicide methods, the Nipponese now produced a new weapon, dubbed by the Americans as *Baka* or "Stupid." The *Baka* bomb was a Japanese version of the German robot bomb; the macabre Oriental flying missile contained a pilot intent on dying in order to sink a United States man-of-war. The *Kamikaze* Corps sought to succeed where the Japanese Navy in the Philippine Sea and elsewhere had failed; the purpose of the suicide pilots was to knock out so many American ships that the remainder would have to run for safety, leaving the Tenth Army hopelessly isolated. Although the Japanese failed, they did play havoc, and the United States fleet suffered in proving that it had come to stay. This was to prove to be the most expensive campaign in the United States Navy's history.

The brunt of the "Divine Tempest" was borne by the small vessels on the fringes of the picket line around Okinawa. Destroyers like the *Bush*, the new *Calhoun*, the *Halligan*, the *Abele*, the *Pringle*, and the *Porter* were sunk while standing guard 25 to 50 miles away from the main anchorage. Since these little ships were the first to be spotted by enemy airmen, they usually became the principal objects of attack. Yet the larger ships, especially the carriers, did not escape unscathed, for not all the *Kamikazes* could be shot down before they reached the heart of the fleet. The old *Nevada*, however, was the only battleship to be hurt. The *Bunker Hill*, the *Intrepid*, the *Enterprise*, the *Ticonderoga*, and the *Hancock* were among the large carriers that were struck. The worst injury was suffered by the *Bunker Hill*, hit while at flight quarters, with the result that a series of explosions all but ripped the ship apart; 393 crewmen were listed as dead or missing and 264 wounded, but the survivors put out the fires and brought their vessel safely back to port. In addition the British carriers *Illustrious*, *Victorious*, and *Indefatigable* were attacked off the Sakashima Islands, south of Okinawa, but they escaped with minor damage.

Altogether 33 American ships were sunk and 50 were damaged in the Okinawa battle. The Japanese plane and ship losses were staggering. Many lesser craft were destroyed by American pilots, but the most important kill was the sinking of the last of Japan's modern dreadnaughts, the *Yamato*, by the airmen of Task Force 58. The estimate of Japanese planes, *Kamikazes* and otherwise, knocked down ran well over the 4,000 mark. As the campaign drew to a close the Japanese seemed undiscouraged by the failure of the *Kamikazes* to achieve the success that had been expected. Radio Tokyo announced that Japan's whole naval air arm had become a suicide corps, and added: "If this tactic is successful, victory is assured for Japan. If otherwise, the navy will have many heroes for our shrines."

While the battle at sea was being fought, the Tenth Army was gradually wearing down the Japanese defenders on Okinawa. The nature of the struggle is shown by the names of the hills and ridges that saw most of the fighting: Kakazu Ridge, Conical Hill, Chocolate Drop, Sugar Loaf Hill, Shuri Ridge. The Seventh, Twenty-seventh, Seventy-seventh, and Ninety-sixth Infantry Divisions and the First, Second, and Sixth Marine Divisions all had a part in driving the Japanese from their vantage points atop Okinawa's southern heights. The capture of Conical Hill and Shuri Castle, two of the enemy's principal strongholds, helped break the Nipponese line, and shortly thereafter the mopping-up with grenades and flame-throwers began. Okinawa was pronounced secure on June 21.

Three days before the end of the battle for Okinawa, General Buckner was killed in action. Shortly before his death, Buckner had been compelled to defend his strategy against critics at home. Homer Bigart, a front line correspondent of the New York *Herald Tribune*, wrote that the tactics of the Tenth Army's leaders had been too conservative; an amphibious landing behind the enemy lines, he felt, would have avoided many costly assaults of the hills held by the Japanese. David Lawrence in his Washington column took an extreme stand: "Why is the truth about the military fiasco at Okinawa being hushed up? Why has no one in the high command of the United States disclosed the mistakes that appear to have made the Okinawa affair a worse example of military incompetence than Pearl Harbor?" General Buckner, however, denied that new landings would have saved lives, and Admiral Nimitz concurred.

The arm-chair strategists had missed the point that Okinawa was costly because it was not a battle but a campaign. This was no tiny Iwo Jima; Okinawa was several times the size of Iwo Jima and was defended by five times the number of Japanese. Japan on Okinawa lost 110,549 killed and 8,696 prisoners; the Army, the Navy, and the Marine Corps of the United States lost 11,477 killed and missing and 31,804 wounded. The ratio of American to Japanese losses shows how incorrect was David Lawrence's charge of incompetence. Okinawa simply demonstrated that casualties could be expected to mount as the Battle of Japan reached its climax.

The loss of Okinawa was a major disaster for Japan. It gave the Allies, just as the war in Europe came to an end, an invasion base for future operations against the Japanese homeland. The defeat on Okinawa coupled with the simultaneous closing of the campaign in the Philippines shut the Nipponese off from their stolen empire in Indo-China and in the East Indies. Admiral Nimitz made that point clear: "Establishment of our forces on Okinawa has practically cut off all Japanese positions to the southward as far as sea communications are concerned. It has made the Japanese situation in China, Burma and the Dutch East Indies untenable and has forced withdrawals which are now being exploited by our forces in China." Japan's "Greater East Asia" was bankrupt. Everywhere the Japanese empire began to crumble.

In Burma, General Frank Merrill's American "Marauders" and General Orde C. Wingate's British "Raiders," airborne organizations that had kept the Japanese busy in years past, now gave way to larger and better equipped forces that administered repeated defeats to the enemy. On March 21 Mandalay fell to the British, and on May 3 Rangoon was abandoned before Britain's advancing columns reached the city. Admiral Mountbatten thereupon reported that Burma was virtually cleared of the enemy. As Rangoon yielded other British Empire troops knocked at the gates of Borneo by seizing Tarakan, a little island off Borneo's northeast coast. In China Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek and his American chief of staff, General Albert C. Wedemeyer, watched as the Japanese pulled out of Central China and retired northward. "It meant," *Time* for June 11, 1945, said, "that Japan had irrevocably written its Southeast Asia and South Seas empires off the books."

Yet within its home fortress, the shrunken Japanese Empire found no safety. The Twentieth Air Force had come a long way since the day in June, 1944, that 68 Superfortresses had flown from Chengtu in China and bombed Yawata. On that same day, June 15, 1944, the Navy had opened up vast new opportunities for the use of the B-29s by stabbing into the Marianas at Saipan; from those new bases the distance to Tokyo was cut in half, and the Marianas could be supplied from the sea, thereby eliminating the long haul of gasoline and parts over the Hump. Then in February, 1945, Iwo Jima was invaded, and its seizure increased the effectiveness of the Superforts in many ways: Iwo again halved the journey to Japan; Mustang fighter planes could thereafter accompany the B-29s on their missions; the Superfortresses could carry greater bomb loads by refueling at Iwo; and the island could serve as a rescue station for crippled planes unable to get back to the Marianas. The bombing flights from Chengtu had been experimental; those from the Marianas had been hit-or-miss affairs, ineffective because of the heights from which the explosives had to be dropped. After Iwo Jima was acquired, the Superfortresses made much of Japan a shambles.

The B-29s kept hard at it during the Okinawa campaign, and by its close General Curtis E. LeMay, commander of the Twentieth Air Force, could tick off the industrial Japanese cities that had been ruined by fire bombs. "Yokohama is gone, Nagoya is no longer a worthwhile target," he announced. "Kobe is gone. Soon we'll be striking smaller cities in the 100,000 population class." Next he added Osaka to his list; Tokyo too lost all but 10 square miles of its 60 square miles of industrial area. "We have destroyed the five largest cities in Japan," he then declared, "and any one of these would be a major disaster. We have done this with less than half the strength that we will have in the Pacific. We have the capacity to devastate Japan and we will do so if she does not surrender. Missions of 1,000 planes will come before long. . . . In a few months we will be running out of targets."

July, 1945, was the most successful month experienced by the Twentieth Air Force. At a cost of only 11 planes, 40,000 tons of explosives were delivered to 39 manufacturing centers and other scattered targets. As a part of a war of nerves, General LeMay dropped leaflets listing for the Japanese the 11 cities next to be bombed. In spite of that warning Japanese airmen were powerless to stop the Superforts when they appeared on schedule. As LeMay put it: "We feel that if we can convince enough of them that they have nothing to look forward to but total destruction, we may shorten the war. . . . We are telling them where we are going to hit and they can't do anything about it." The Japanese had much food for thought as the "Big Month" of the Pacific ended;

already reeling under aerial attack, they faced the terrible prospect of misery multiplied when the Allied airmen from Europe reached the Pacific theater.

The Navy matched the Twentieth Air Force in bringing the war home to Nippon. The naval strikes in Japan's home waters in 1945 were far different from the morale bombing of Tokyo by Doolittle's *Hornet*-based B-25s in April, 1942. The Fifth Fleet's carrier plane sweeps of February and March of 1945 were no hit-and-run jabs; in those raids hundreds of planes struck at assigned targets for hours. Yet the Fifth Fleet's bombardments were as nothing compared to those delivered by the Third Fleet in July. Halsey not only made use of his aircraft, but in addition he ordered his battleships in close to the enemy coasts and poured shells on Japan's "Sacred Soil." For the Japanese it was a crowning insult.

Halsey made the first of his three big raids on the Japanese islands on July 10 when his carrier planes bombed and strafed the airfields around Tokyo. Although 109 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground, not a single Nipponese plane arose to offer opposition. On July 14 the fleet again stood off the Japanese mainland, and again the *Essex*, the *Lexington*, the *Independence*, the *San Jacinto*, and the other carriers put their planes aloft. The big event of that day, however, was the shelling of the shore installations on Tokyo's home island, Honshu, by the battleships *Massachusetts*, *Indiana*, and *South Dakota*, and a host of cruisers and destroyers; the chief target, the steel works of Kamaishi, was under heavy fire for two hours. On the following day the battleships *Iowa*, *Missouri*, and *Wisconsin*, led a flotilla of ships to the northern island, Hokkaido, where the Nihon and Wanishi steel works were blasted. Finally on July 17 came a climactic battleship and carrier raid conducted by 133 American and British vessels. The might of that powerful array was awe-inspiring: to the six battleships previously named were added the *Alabama*, the *North Carolina*, and England's *King George V*; the four carriers already mentioned were joined by the *Bennington*, *Hancock*, *Randolph*, *Ticonderoga*, *Yorktown*, *Bonhomme Richard*, *Shangri-La*, *Wasp*, *Belleau Wood*, *Cowpens*, *Monterey*, *Bataan*, and England's *Indefatigable*, *Implacable*, *Victorious*, and *Formidable*. That stupendous display of naval strength furnished the Japanese with an object lesson they were quick to grasp. Admiral Halsey did not misjudge his foes when he said: "If the Nips do not know they are a doomed nation, then they are stupider than I think they are."

Shortly after Halsey spoke, the Japanese were to learn that Doom takes forms that are strange and wonderful and terrible. On August 6, 1945, at the city of Hiroshima it took the form of an awesome new weapon, the atomic bomb. The release of atomic power was no war-time phenomenon; it had been made possible by a brilliant array of scholars whose labors covered a half-century. As the Second World War opened, however, many important discoveries regarding the practical application of nuclear energy appeared close at hand, and scientists of all lands worked feverishly throughout the war to produce an atomic fission weapon. The United States and Great Britain pooled their resources and their knowledge, their scientists collaborating in bringing the dread instrument into being. Thousands of men and billions of dollars were needed to carry on the work in great plants at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, at Richland, Washington, and at Sante Fe, New Mexico. Tests in the New Mexican desert in July, 1945, demonstrated that the Allied scientists had won the race to produce an atomic bomb.

The leaders of the United States, Great Britain, Russia, and China were in conference at Potsdam in Germany when the final test of the atomic bomb was made. When the results of the New Mexican experiment were received in Potsdam, an unconditional surrender ultimatum to Japan, already under consideration, was drawn up. The words of warning to Japan had special meaning: "The full application of our military power, backed by our resolve, will mean the inevitable and complete destruction of the Japanese armed forces and just as inevitably the utter devastation of the Japanese homeland." The nations in the "Big Four" already at war with Japan, the United States, Great Britain, and China, signed the document. Premier Stalin still seemed unimpressed by the atomic weapon; he chose to await developments, and Russia consequently was not a signatory to the ultimatum.

Stalin did not have long to wait, for developments in Japan were spectacularly rapid. As might have been expected, the Japanese chose to ignore the Potsdam Declaration; after all, demands for surrender usually carried a suggestion of impending disaster. The Allied forecast of "utter devastation" this time, however, proved to be no idle threat. On August 6, a B-29 plane flew over Hiroshima and the bombardier dropped one small bomb in which, according to President Truman, was stored the power to destroy equal to 20,000 tons of T.N.T. Before August 6 Hiroshima had possessed a population of 343,000. When the great mushroom-shaped cloud of smoke and dust cleared, 60 per cent of the city was found to be pulverized. By this one stroke nearly 60,000 people were killed and approximately 100,000 wounded and burned. A raid by 1,000 Superfortresses carrying "block busters" would not have been half as effective.

On the day the first atomic bomb was released on Hiroshima, President Truman issued another warning to the Japanese. "If they do not now accept our terms," he declared, "they may expect a rain of ruin from the air the like of which has never been seen on this earth." When the Japanese again turned a deaf ear, a second bomb was dropped on August 9, this time on the city of Nagasaki. That bomb, announced as an improved model which made the Hiroshima bomb obsolete, sent a pillar of fire and smoke 45,000 feet in the air and wrecked factories miles apart. J. Robert Oppenheimer, one of the American scientists who worked on the project, later wrote: "That bomb at Nagasaki would have taken out 10 square miles, or a bit more, if there had been 10 square miles to take out."

The Hiroshima bomb convinced Russia, and on August 8 the Soviet Union declared war on Japan. Stalin had no intention of permitting the United States and Great Britain to write a treaty of peace for the Orient without his help. Russia had the scores of the Russo-Japanese War and the quarrels over the Manchurian boundary to settle with Japan; Soviet cooperation against the Japanese, therefore, was a certainty from the outset. Stalin at Potsdam, however, showed that he preferred to let the Russian armies rest for a while. The Hiroshima attack made it clear that further rest might mean that the war would end before Russia could join in the conflict. As it was, the Soviet Union was at war only two days before Japan offered to surrender.

The Nagasaki bomb convinced the Japanese. Japan had been made to feel its helplessness by the Superfortress attacks, by the naval bombardment of its coasts, by the loss of Okinawa. Already the Allies had begun to add to their tremendous power in the Pacific by the transfer of men and ships and planes from Europe. Already "Operation Olympic" for the invasion of Kyushu had been set for November, 1945, and "Operation Coronet" for the strike at the Tokyo area had been planned for March, 1946. The Japanese, of course, did not know the dates, but they did know that invasion was coming. Japan's air force had been driven from the skies; her navy was gone. The atomic bombs were the last straws. To credit these atomic weapons with the victory over the Japanese would do an injustice to the Army, Navy, and Marine units that had carried the fight to Japan's home islands through nearly four years of bitter warfare. Yet the champions of the various services would do well not to ignore the importance of the atomic bomb in hastening, perhaps by many months, the end of the war.

Even before the atomic bombs were unleashed, the Japanese government had sent out a peace feeler to the Allies through the Soviet Union; to that inquiry about terms the Potsdam Declaration had been an answer. While Japan balked at the demand for unconditional surrender and talked of "fighting to the end, even if we may be forced to eat grass and sleep in the fields," the bombs fell on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Soviet armies began to overrun Manchuria. On August 10 the Japanese announced that they had had enough; they were ready, they said, to accept the Potsdam ultimatum provided "the said declaration does not compromise any demand which prejudices the prerogatives of His Majesty as a sovereign ruler."

This face-saving effort to retain Hirohito as head of the government of Japan was debated by Allied leaders, many of whom felt that the Japanese should be conceded nothing lest they be made difficult to deal with in later years. The point of view that prevailed among the Allies, however, was that the Emperor could be useful in securing a cessation of hostilities on the part of die-hard enemy troops still holding out on by-passed islands of the Pacific. The Allied reply of August 11 to the Japanese surrender note, therefore, included the statement that "the authority of the Emperor and the Japanese Government to rule the State shall be subject to the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers." For the time being the Emperor could stay but he would be permitted to do and say only those things that the Allies approved. Whether or not he was to be a permanent fixture would depend on the type of government ultimately adopted by the Japanese people.

Japan waited three days before answering the new proposal from the Allies. The interval was used to prepare the Japanese for the shock of defeat; they had been so completely misled by their propaganda that ways of softening the blow had to be found. The newspaper *Yomiuri-Hochi* of Tokyo urged everyone "to wait for the great command from the throne" and added: "The stark reality is that Japan and the Japanese people now stand at the crossroads of life or death. In this worst national crisis in our history, all the people must strictly guard against the danger of internal split and conflict. . . . Internal confusion is no way of saving the nation from the gravest crisis with which Japan is now confronted." Then on August 14 the Emperor issued an imperial rescript describing the necessity of accepting the Potsdam Declaration. In a masterpiece of understatement he admitted that "the war situation has developed not necessarily to Japan's advantage," and he attributed Japan's surrender to the Allied use of the atomic bomb which ultimately would have brought about the "obliteration of the Japanese nation." Consequently Japan must suffer the insufferable.

Many in the United States and in other Allied nations believed that the war with Japan should have been allowed to con-

tinue in preference to allowing the Japanese High Command to paint such a favorable word picture for home consumption. The impression grew in some quarters that the enemy was dictating the peace. Hanson Baldwin of the New York *Times* declared: "There is not much use blinking the fact that . . . the Japanese had made us look like monkeys." Others recalled with misgivings the German resurrection after 1918 and regretted that a surrender was considered while Japan's large army was still intact; the war, they felt, should be brought home to the Japanese by an Allied army of invasion which would make Japan a wasteland.

On the other hand those members of the armed forces who would have had to fight their way into Japan had no regrets. The beachhead established in Tokyo without bloodshed was vastly to be preferred to the sort of landings customarily made on the Pacific islands. For those who wanted to prolong the war a study of the way the peace was lost after 1918 might have proved illuminating. They would then have discovered that the means by which the Allies reached Tokyo was not too important; what would count would be the course followed after arrival. Further required reading for those who expressed disappointment that Japan had given up too soon should have been an account of the assault on Iwo Jima.

On August 14 the Japanese acceptance of the Potsdam terms was proclaimed. Simultaneously General MacArthur was announced as the Supreme Commander of the Allies, a position that made him stage manager for the official pageant of surrender. After the necessary preliminaries had been worked out with the Japanese representatives who met MacArthur in Manila, a military and naval occupation force was sent to the Tokyo area. MacArthur flew there in a plane significantly bearing the name of "Bataan" and directed that the emissaries of the enemy join Allied leaders on the battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. There on September 2, 1945, surrounded by battleships of the American and British fleets, the Japanese envoys signed the document that proclaimed the unconditional surrender of all forces under Japan's control. Japan was thereby virtually reduced to the position she had occupied when Commander Perry first visited Japan with an American naval squadron. MacArthur then spoke the final words of the ceremony and of the war: "Let us pray that peace be now restored to the world and that God will preserve it always."

CHAPTER XV

Uneasy Peace

The Second World War's most significant and most terrible moment came on July 16, 1945, the day that the directors of the Atomic Bomb Project tested the product of their labors in the desert of New Mexico by detonating the first atomic bomb. H. D. Smyth's *Atomic Energy for Military Purposes*, the official report on the development of the new weapon, includes General Thomas F. Farrell's description of the impression made by the frightful blast on the observers: "The effects could well be called unprecedented, magnificent, beautiful, stupendous and terrifying. . . . The lighting effects beggared description. The whole country was lighted by a searing light with the intensity many times that of the midday sun. It was golden, purple, violet, gray and blue. . . . Thirty seconds after, the explosion came first, the air blast pressing hard against the people and things, to be followed almost immediately by the strong, sustained, awesome roar which warned of doomsday and made us feel that we puny things were blasphemous to dare tamper with the forces heretofore reserved to the Almighty." The phenomenal success of that experiment proved for better or for worse a new age, the Age of Atomic Energy, had been born.

Destiny seldom grants to man the opportunity to witness in his own time the complete transformation of his way of life. The transition from one era to another is usually so gradual that it is well-nigh imperceptible even to those who experience a small degree of change, and the time required for an observable mutation can ordinarily be measured in centuries. The men of the Eighteenth Century, for example, had little understanding of the way in which the daily lives of all mankind were being transformed by the mechanical inventions then beginning to be introduced. Not until the process of harnessing machines to do work formerly done by hand had been going on for a hundred years was the importance of the change fully grasped. Only then did the period acquire the name of "Industrial Revolution." Today, two centuries after the inventions that heralded the advent of the Industrial Revolution first were contrived, historians and economists and sociologists and political scientists and philosophers still are attempting to interpret the forces set in motion during that revolutionary epoch.

Moreover, when a social upheaval occurs, the generations living during the time of discord may not be astute enough to see that a new era has dawned. That was true in great measure of the American Revolution and the French Revolution. Americans there were who realized that Yorktown had severed the ties with England, and Frenchmen could guess that the Reign of Terror had ended the predominance of the feudal aristocracy. Yet the lasting social and political impacts of those two revolutions could not have been foreseen by those alive in the 1780s and 1790s. It was the same with other periods of great change that have contributed to the making of our modern world: the Renaissance, the rise of nationalism, the Reformation, the Commercial Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, the Intellectual Revolution of the Eighteenth Century. Generations were to die without any conception of the full meaning of the forces at work around them, and thus they left to later historians the task of looking back and appraising the progress achieved.

The present generation then appears to be about to set forth upon an adventure unique in history. If the scientists have not misinformed us, we will watch the new Atomic Age unfold in a span so brief that we will be able to record not only the fact of transition but the nature of it as well. Men of the future will have to interpret and revise our findings, for no special power of prophecy is granted to the men of today. Yet more than most we will have an awareness of change and will be compelled to formulate comprehensive explanations of the march of events. The speed of the transformation will allow no alternative course, for our current age of the machine that occupied two centuries in reaching maturity is to be replaced in less than a decade by the Age of the Atom.

The prospect is not altogether inviting. The tragedy of the men of science whose researches have made possible the release of nuclear energy is that up to the present they seem to have been intent on bringing something destructive into being. Actually the reverse is true. The changes in our world sought by the scientists were intended to be for the benefit of mankind, and to contend, as have the timid among us, that the atom should never have been split is to argue against every device from the match to the aeroplane that serves purposes that are both good and evil.

Much that is good can be expected to develop from atomic research. A new source of power to do man's work is offered, an energy which when harnessed will become vastly more important than steam or electricity. The petroleum industry can make use of new methods of separating gasoline fractions. Rapid developments can now be made in the dehydration of foods and in the production of vitamins. The new knowledge gained about radioactivity opens the way to many improvements in the fields of medicine, as for example in the treatment of cancer. In short, we have opening before us a technological revolution promising a longer and healthier life and a happier one of greater ease and leisure.

All of these things are ours—if we keep the peace; and there is the rub. Actually the one basic concern of all mankind growing out of the use of atomic energy is the problem of preserving peace in order to avoid a war fought with atomic weapons. Unfortunately technological advances will be made in all directions, and just as atomic power will revolutionize industry so will it revolutionize warfare. At last man has developed the ultimate weapon, the one with which he can completely destroy himself; and if the history of his past means anything, no fear of self-destruction will deter him from making full use of this new instrument if war comes again.

The casualty figures of Hiroshima and the wreckage of Nagasaki show what another World War would bring. The improved Nagasaki bomb pulverized wooden structures and twisted steel girders miles apart; it would have, according to Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, "taken out 10 square miles . . . if there had been 10 square miles to take out." It matters little whether scientists improve upon this bomb, as unquestionably they will. Today the bombardier holds in his hands a destructive force that could obliterate all the major cities of the world in a few days of fighting. Planes and robots with no greater range than those of today could deliver enough atomic bombs to make virtually any spot on the globe uninhabitable. The next war should be easy to name: it might well be called the "Last World War."

The military and naval leaders of the United States have sought to give reassurance on this subject by saying, to use the words of Admiral Nimitz, "there has never yet been a weapon against which man has been unable to devise a counter-weapon or defense." Yet as Bernard Brodie, editor of *The Absolute Weapon*, points out: "Before we can speak of a defense against atomic bombs being effective, the frustration of the attack for any given target must be well-nigh complete." Heretofore it has been possible to consider a defense adequate when the defenders made an offensive too costly to be continued. The defense of London during the air *blitz* was successful because the *Luftwaffe* lost so many planes that the Germans had to give up their bomber sweeps.

In every raid, however, German airmen reached the city and dropped scores of bombs on their objective. Had they been using atomic bombs, London, in spite of an adequate defense, would have been wiped from the face of the earth. Admiral Nimitz, moreover, would have seen his great fleet off Okinawa disintegrate if the same number of *Kamikaze* pilots who penetrated the Navy's superb defense had been carrying atomic bombs.

In this Atomic Age, it is clear that an adequate defense is no defense at all. The only possible defense is a complete defense which stops all the planes or robots or rockets or other "victory weapons" used by an enemy. Thus far no complete military defense has been devised for any instrument of war, not even the slingshot. One means alone remains untried: a strong, permanent international organization possessed of sufficient power to maintain peace. For peace is the one complete defense against atomic weapons.

Throughout the war the heads of the Allied governments made repeated professions of their determination to set up permanent peace machinery at the cessation of hostilities. At Moscow in October, 1943, a meeting of the foreign secretaries of the United States, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union brought together Cordell Hull, Anthony Eden, and Vyacheslaff Molotov; with the concurrence of the Chinese ambassador to Russia, they agreed to establish "a general international organization, based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving States, and open to membership to all such States, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security." At Teheran in November, 1943, President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill, and Premier Stalin held their first joint discussions and resolved "to make a peace that will command good will from the overwhelming masses of the people of the world and banish the scourge and terror of war for many generations." At Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D. C., in October, 1944, representatives of the United States, Great Britain, Russia, and China set forth the purposes of a United Nations organization, calling for "effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace and the suppression of acts of aggression." At Yalta in the Crimea in February, 1945, President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin again conferred and designated April 25, 1945, as the time and San Francisco as the place for a conference to draw up a charter for a world security organization. Finally at San Francisco the Charter of the United Nations was prepared by the delegates of 50 states; article two of that document sounded the keynote: "All members shall settle their international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security, and justice are not endangered."

The head of the American delegation to the San Francisco Conference, Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius, offered a frank observation on the charter: "Will it keep the peace? That depends upon the will to peace with which the nations of the world support the charter and build strength into the world organization. We can do no more at San Francisco than to establish the constitutional basis upon which the world can live without war—if it will." Neither before nor after the San Francisco meeting however, did the will to peace appear too strong among the major powers. At no time during the war did the Big Four meet the outspoken demand for a statement of purposes regarding terms for the peace treaties with which the war would be closed. In important conferences at Casablanca, Washington, Quebec, Moscow, Cairo, Teheran, Yalta, and Potsdam, the representatives of all or part of the Big Four discussed many things. The decisions reached on military strategy achieved much that was good and had a determining influence on the course of the war, yet as regards the final formula for peace the public announcements stuck largely to platitudes.

On occasion prior to the war's conclusion, conference members would come to grips with reality in their peace-making. At Moscow the foreign ministers agreed to the setting up of a democratic government in Italy and made reference to the re-establishment of an independent Austria. At Cairo Chiang Kai-shek exacted from Roosevelt and Churchill the assurance that Manchuria and Formosa would be restored to China and that Korea would be made independent. At Yalta Russia was promised a free hand in taking over territory in Poland, while the Poles were offered compensation in the form of slices of Germany. Further than that the Allies would not go.

The stock reply to the critics who insisted on a definite peace formula was that the war must first be won before the generalities of conference statements could be changed into specifics. Certainly the desire to avoid any discord that might jeopardize victory was understandable, but this policy of postponement simply lent color to the suspicion that the United Nations were finding it difficult to find common ground on which to lay the foundation for peace. Delay only emphasized the differences, and the year that followed the close of hostilities was marked by constant bickering among the erstwhile Allies. Not until July, 1946, did the foreign ministers agree to call a general peace conference and then only after an exchange of accusations between Secretary of State James F. Byrnes and Foreign Secretary Molotov.

The war years and the year of uneasy peace that has transpired since the end of the war make it difficult to hold high hopes that the peace conference will make a satisfactory settlement of the world's disputes. The drawing of boundaries that will be pleasing to all the nationalistic aspirations of European and Asiatic peoples is patently impossible. Yet now even the long-cherished wish that the Big Four could reach an agreement to cooperate in the ways of peace seems impossible of fulfillment. The split between the United States and Great Britain on one side and the Soviet Union on the other seems wide and deep. Stalin's insistence on looking upon the Baltic region as an area of Soviet interest is resented by the United States and Britain; yet both the United States and Britain have spheres of influence that they refuse to discuss with outsiders. The age-old Anglo-Soviet rivalries in the Balkans and in the Middle East continue to embroil the two countries in international disputes. Above all, the go-it-alone policy of Russia in all matters territorial and political has aroused general suspicion of her intentions. Russia counters suspicion with suspicion, charging that the United States and Great Britain have ulterior motives in holding on to the secret of the atomic bomb.

Thus the leaders of the nations are again playing their game of power politics with the atomic bomb as an added new factor. The United States and Great Britain, smugly imagining that possession of the bomb gives them security, seek to use it as an instrument of policy, while other countries complain of atomic weapons and rush their own experimentations. The Big Four instead of promoting disarmament as they frequently promised in the war conferences, now threaten to engage in a new armament race more terrible than ever. Already the people of the world are growing resigned to the idea of a Third World War.

Yet a Third World War is by no means inevitable. In the United Nations Organization, mankind has the rudiments of an agency through which peace can be maintained. The assurance of the cooperation of the United States gets the United Nations off to a better start than did the ill-fated League of Nations. The United Nations Organization, however, faces the same stumbling block with which the League was confronted, the obstacle of national sovereignty. Men of good will must, therefore, realize the limitations of the United Nations and work to expand its power and influence. If that expansion can come only at the expense of national sovereignty, then the leaders of the nations will have to decide whether sovereignty will be yielded before or after the next war. An atomic war will leave so little in its wake that national sovereignty will no longer matter.

Actually then the terms of the treaty closing the Second World War will be of minor importance. Far greater significance will be attached to the machinery for carrying out the treaty's provisions. If the United Nations is employed in its full capacity, grievances and differences arising out of the peace conference can be settled through the good offices of the security organization. If the United Nations is relegated to a secondary place and national sovereignty and power politics hold sway, then the peace will be lost a second time. Then will the words of Woodrow Wilson spoken at St. Louis in 1919 have renewed significance: "And the glory of the Armies and the Navies of the United States is gone . . . and there ensues upon it, in the suitable darkness of the night, the nightmare of dread which lay upon the nations before this war came; and there will come some time, in the vengeful Providence of God, another struggle in which, not a few hundred thousand fine men from America will have to die, but as many millions as are necessary to accomplish the final freedom of the peoples of the world."

The men who make and work to keep the peace can study the stupendous casualty totals of the First and Second World Wars. They will not miss the significance of the progress made by humanity in the art of self-slaughter. They will ponder the implications of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and their relationship to the estimate of casualties in an atomic war. They can decide whether they prefer to recast their moral and political values in terms of world federation, or whether they choose to emulate the mole and tunnel underground in an effort to escape the holocaust. The peoples of the earth challenge their leaders to help them to walk in the light.


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